Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-94-143 *26 July 1994*

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Foreign Intelligence Shows Interest in Former USSR

LD2507181094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign intelligence services of many countries display a growing interest in former Soviet territory. A Federation Council deputy said that this had been announced by a representative of the Main Intelligence Department of the Russian Defense Ministry during the closed parliamentary hearings in the upper chamber.

The officer of the Defense Ministry said that such countries as Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan showed their interest not only in the newly independent Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan but also in such republics of Russia as Bashkortostan and Tatarstan.

The officer said that the threat for Russia to "peacefully lose" Far East had become real "where the majority of the population would be Chinese in several years as a result of the insufficient control over the migration."

Some competent military experts said they believed that the situation could be analogous in the Kaliningrad Region (Russia's exclave). The experts said that if this region was given the status of a free economic zone this would only speed up such developments.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Jul

LD2607055294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 26 Jul 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin on the basic provisions of a state programme for the privatisation of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation after July 1, 1994.

The newspaper's news analyst, in comment on the decree, writes that many amendments, suggested by State Duma economic committees to the state property committee's programme, were included in the text if the basic provisions "in a calm manner".

"The president, when signing the decree, took up a well-considered position, without giving trump cards to any of the radical political wings."

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reports that the leadership of the federation of the independent trade unions of Russia sent an open letter to the members of Russia's Federal Assembly. The letter reads in particular as follows: "The trade unions cannot regard as well- considered the minimum wage law, which was hastily adopted by the deputies and which sets minimum wage at 20,500 rubles".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA reports that the central committee of the engineering workers' union of Russia has decided to revoke the signature of its chairman Gennadiy Trudov to the treaty on social accord.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an interview with Lieutenant- General Vladimir Potapov, chief of staff of the North Caucasian Military District, who points out: "The personnel of units that are deployed in the state-of-emergency zone acquire not only professional habits but diplomatic ones as well, because commissioned and non-commissioned officers, soldiers and sergeants directly or indirectly have to contact with people who live there".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, referring to a reliable source in the general staff, maintains that "Colonel-General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of Russian airborne troops, recently prepared a report to the Russian defence minister about the situation in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

"The report expresses particular concern over the fact that overtly pro-Georgian sentiments have developed among the command and personnel of the Russian peacekeeping force in southern zone (Zugdidi district—group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus).

"The command is under a great pressure from the Georgian leadership, boasts about participation in military actions against Zviadistas, in the training of Georgia's Armed Forces, and states readiness to give military aid to it.

"A certain proportion of officers in the southern zone openly accuse the Russian airborne troops of a pro-Abkhazian position and bring about an abnormal attitude towards paratroopers. Thus, there is an increasing danger of conflicts between Russian paratroop units and the group of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus, which is of benefit to the Georgian side and may be provoked by it".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on the imprisonment of Latvian communist leader Alfreds Rubiks: "Prosecutors and judges lean over backwards trying to prove the unprovable. However, the defendants themselves and Aleksandr Ogurtsov, defence lawyer of Rubiks, clearly and in a well-argumented may show the entire untenability of the accusations. More than 130 witnesses, who have already testified before the court, confirmed the far-fetchedness of the charge.

"Even former Latvian Popular-Front Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis in his testimony at the trial did not confirm the prosecution's version that Rubiks with the aid of Riga special-purpose police tried to seize power in the republic in January and August 1991.

"The authorities are at a loss as to what should be done next? To convict an innocent—how that could be explained to Europe and the entire world? To release him? How then can legal arbitrariness be justified in the eyes of their own people?"

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PRAVDA reports that "the Riga Sejm decided to evict 900 children studying in Russian in secondary school no. 26 and enroll 400 Lettish boys and girls there.

"The school was built at the beginning of the century on the money of Russian residents in Latvia specially for Russian children. This right was respected even by pre-war President Karlis Ulmanis".

PRAVDA runs an article by former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov about the situation in Chechnya. His opinion is that "the situation in the Chechen Republic is now such that if the plan for negotiations is rejected, a universal outburst of indignation may bring it to a sanguinary outcome".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries a sensational article according to which research by Russian chemist Tamara Svishcheva proves that the immune deficiency virus is not the only cause of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). There is a much more treacherous foe which can completely destroy the protective mechanisms of the human organism—trichomonas".

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Moscow Supports Inter-American Intervention in Haiti

LD2607133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 26 July—Moscow prefers the option of a peaceful settlement of the Haiti crisis, with UN mediation, Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry press and information department, said at a briefing today.

At the same time, in answer to questions from journalists, he did not rule out that "UN Security Council-sanctioned inter-American forces could be sent there in order to restore the legitimate government of Haiti, at the request of the latter".

Demurin emphasized that all expenditure on carrying out such an operation "should be covered by the states sending the troops, and the costs of subsequent UN operations must be reduced to the minimum".

Foreign Ministry Official on Bosnia Contact Group Meeting

LD2507113494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1029 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—If the plan for a peaceful settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina, agreed in Geneva, fails, there could be grave and catastrophic consequences. Additional measures which could be taken to implement the aforementioned plan are therefore being studied at a meeting of the Contact Group on Bosnia currently under way in Moscow, Igor Ivanov, Russia's first deputy foreign minister, said today.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, he said, is monitoring this issue on President Boris Yeltsin's personal instructions, and is taking the necessary steps to encourage the parties drawn into the conflict to approve and adopt the plan.

Answering a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the possibility of the Contact Group putting forward any new inititives aimed at a settlement in Bosnia, Igor Ivanov commented that "one can only talk hypothetically" about that at present. "We think we already have a plan that is well-balanced and realistic, one that expresses the interests of all the parties. This plan received summit-level approval in Naples, and it would hardly be expedient to depart from it now. We now need to concentrate efforts on getting it implemented," the first deputy minister stressed. [Passage omitted]

In reply to correspondents questions after the end of the meeting, Pavel Grachev did not speak of the aims of his visit to the former Yugoslavia, but said only that he intends to meet "the presidents and defence ministers" there. Nevertheless, he said that a meeting between him and Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, is proposed.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from informed sources in the Defense Ministry that the visit will be a short one—it is intended that Pavel Grachev will return to Moscow on Wednesday.

Further on Contact Group Meeting

LD2507192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 25 Jul 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] In Moscow on Monday the international contact group on a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina held a session. The session was attended by the Russian President's special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

As Interfax learned from diplomatic sources, a major issue on the agenda was debates on the evasive reply of the Bosnian Serbs to the world community's ultimatum presented to the warring sides.

In comments on this Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, told journalists on Monday that participants in the session analysed the present situation and studied additional opportunities that could be used to implement the plan for resolving the conflict peacefully worked out in Geneva.

In answer to a question from Interfax's correspondent he said: "We believe that the stand taken by the Bosnian Serbs cannot satisfy us, but it makes it possible to continue working in that direction."

As Ivanov said, the contact group should not be expected to work out new initiatives at its today's session. "Now it's essential to focus our efforts on the ways to induce all the parties involved in the conflict to support the well-balanced and adjusted Geneva plan, not to advance a new one," he stressed. Moscow is taking vigorous steps in that direction in the framework of the contact group and on bilateral basis, he added. "President Boris Yeltsin has closely followed this," the diplomat said.

According to diplomatic sources, another issue discussed by the contact group was to fix a date for the next ministerial-level conference on a settlement in Bosnia.

On Saturday Churkin told Interfax that such a conference will be held either in late July or in early August.

The contact group includes high-ranking diplomats from Russia, the USA, Germany, France and Britain, as well as representatives of the European Union and the U.N.

Grachev Leaves for Peace Talks in Yugoslavia

LD2607084794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

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[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The Russian defence minister, Pavel Grachev, left Moscow on Tuesday for the former Yugoslavia where he intends to contribute to the settlemnt of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Russian minister told his Greek counterpart Yerasimos Arsenis on Monday that the decision on his trip had been made during his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin last Sunday.

During his meeting with journalists after talks with the Greek defence minister, Grachev did not give a direct reply to a direct question about the purpose of his trip to the former Yugoslavia. He did say however that he would meet "the presidents and war ministers" and added that he would specifically meet with the Bosnian Serb Army Commander Ratko Mladic.

The Russian minister expected to be back in Moscow on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a contact group for the Bosnian settlement met behind closed doors in Moscow on Monday. The meeting held in an atmosphere of a strict press embargo, was attended by the political directors of the foreign ministries of Great Britain, Germany and France. Russia was represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin.

During the talks the parties discussed additional measures they planned to take in order to remove objections from any of the parties involved in the conflict.

The contact group will continue its work in Geneva.

Grachev Arrives in Belgrade

LD2607111694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1034 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS Ivan Ivanov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 26 July—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, arrived in Belgrade for a two-day working visit. "This working visit is taking place on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's instructions and I intend to hold meetings with political leaders of Yugoslavia and the Serb republic in Bosnia and also visit our Russian Blue Berets who are acting as peacekeepers here," the minister told ITAR-TASS after arriving at Belgrade airport.

Grachev also said that at the forthcoming meetings he will voice "Russia's point of view on the possibility of resolving the Bosnian problem peacefully."

Asked about UN Secretary Butrus-Ghali's statement on the need to replace the UN peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia with NATO forces, Grachev said that "this replacement should not be made." He added that "the peacekeeping functions are being carried out by subunits of various countries under the aegis of the UN." "As for NATO, it is not a peacekeeping organization," he noted.

Today Grachev will hold talks with Pavle Bulatovic, FRY defense minister; Momcilo Perisic, chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Armed Forces; Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb republic in Bosnia; Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb army; and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. On Wednesday the Russian minister will visit Russia's Blue Berets near Vukovar.

Yugoslav Official Upbeat on Grachev Visit Over Bosnia

LD2507124794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1220 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruben Shirinyan]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 25 Jul—A visit to Yugoslavia by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, which is to take place on Tuesday, testifies to Russia's active role in settling the Bosnian crisis, Djuro Krneta, an adviser of the Yugoslav Embassy in Moscow, told ITAR-TASS today. He expressed the hope that Grachev's upcoming meetings with Yugoslav leaders and Serbian Army Commander Ratko Mladic will be very useful, and will become an important step toward settling the Bosnian crisis. [passage omitted]

Churkin Reports 'No Substantial Results' at Estonia Talks

LD2607082894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin has announced that the consultations with Estonian Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk yielded no substantial results. The consultations were held to finalize the program for today's scheduled meeting in Moscow between the presidents of Russia and Estonia. However, the Estonian side put forward no proposals capable of surmounting the serious differences of opinion currently existing between Russia and Estonia, Vitaliy Churkin said.

Rybkin Supports Yeltsin Stand

LD2607104294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Russia has enough economic and political levers to ensure the protection of the Russian-speaking inhabitants abroad," Russian State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin declared at a press conference in the lower house of the federal legislature today.

Rybkin was speaking in support of President Boris Yeltsin's decision concerning the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

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"We must show patience and tolerance in solving these complex problems," Rybkin said. He warned the west against double standards in tackling human rights issues.

Rybkin praised the activity of the Russian delegation to the G-7 summit in Naples. "Boris Yeltsin's speeches at the summit were worthy of Russia," he stressed.

Estonia's Meri Seeking 'Compromise'

LD2607110194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Pyotr Cheremushkin]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—President Lennart Meri of Estonia arrived in Moscow today for a working meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

On the tarmac he responded to a question from ITAR-TASS about Estonia's readiness for an accord with Russia on disputed issues of military pensioners and the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops from his country. Lennart Meri said he had arrived in Moscow "with an open heart and the desire to reach a compromise solution". As concerns prospects for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia, he said that "this depends on the will of both sides".

The presidents of Russia and Estonia, whose meeting is due to begin in a few minutes, are expected to examine some issues in bilateral relations which have yet to be settled. They concern above all the provision of social protection to Russian military pensioners living in Estonia.

Later today, Lennart Meri is due to hold a press conference in the international press centre of the Hotel Radisson Slavyanskaya.

Estonian Stand 'Unconstructive'

LD2607125194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jul—"I would like our meeting to be constructive," Boris Yeltsin said, opening the talks with Lennart Meri. The president of Estonia arrived in Moscow today.

The talks in the Kremlin are being held behind closed doors. Participating on the Russian side are Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Dmitriy Ryurikov, presidential aide on international affairs. Accompanying Estonian President Lennart Meri are Foreign Minister Juri Luik, Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk, and foreign policy adviser Ivar Tallo.

The Russian Federation president's press secretary told ITAR-TASS that a Russian-Estonian communique would be circulated at the end of the talks. Vyacheslav Kostikov said that "the consultations this morning between Russia and Estonia had demonstrated that the Estonian side had still not changed its unconstructive stand."

"If that is the case," Kostikov said, "Russia will not change its stand. Russia is adhering to civilized politics and will insist that its closest neighbors do the same."

Kostikov said that "Estonia is pretending to show political good will," although the press secretary has not ruled out that Estonia's position will become "more constructive" during the talks.

Kostikov reiterated that "Russia had not rushed Estonia into the current talks.

Duma Statement on Estonia

MM2507154394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 First Edition p 1

[Decree No. 179-1 SD of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly "On the Statement of the State Duma on the Decision of the U.S. Senate," signed by I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly, and dated 15 July 1994]

[Text] The State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly decrees:

To adopt the attached State Duma statement on the U.S. Senate's decision not to grant Russia additional economic aid if Russian troops have not been withdrawn from Estonia by 31 August 1994.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly
Moscow, 15 July 1994

Statement of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly

The Russian president, parliament, and Government, jointly with the world community, are making consistent efforts to find a reasonable solution to the complex problems arising between the states which have appeared on the territory of the former USSR.

Russia and Estonia have succeeded in achieving the main thing—preventing a dangerous exacerbation of the conflict and preserving stability on the border.

In this context the U.S. Senate's decision not to grant Russia additional economic aid if Russian troops have not been withdrawn from Estonia by 31 August 1994 is aimed at undermining the efforts to forge good-neighbor relations between Russia and Estonia, which is the prerogative of our two states.

The State Duma condemns the said decision of the U.S. Senate as an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states, which harms the search for a constructive solution to Russian-Estonian problems and which complicates Russian-U.S. relations.

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Kozyrev Warns U.S. on Interfering in Estonia Relations

LD2607112194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today that the United States should not nurture illusions among Estonians that Russia would turn a blind eye to the violation of the rights of military pensioners in Estonia "either for friendship or under pressure." He was speaking on his return to Moscow from Bangkok, where he had been a guest at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Conference and a forum on regional security.

He said that he had acquainted Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Strobe Talbott with Russia's view of the Estonian problem.

Talking to the journalists who accompanied him on the trip, Kozyrev said that the U.S. administration was at loggerheads with the Congress on Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia, and that made things simpler.

The U.S. Senate recently passed a resolution linking continued American assistance to Russia with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia by August 31.

Kozyrev said the U.S. could not and was not trying to act as a mediator in Russian-Estonian relations. "However, it is capable of creating a favorable climate," Kozyrev said. As an example he cited U.S. actions that had preceded the signing of the Russian-Latvian documents. "Now such a climate is essential for Latvia's parliament to ratify these agreements and for Estonia's President Lennart Meri and other politicians of that country to reach similar accords with Russia," Kozyrev stressed.

Meri and President Boris Yeltsin are to hold talks in Moscow later in the day.

Kozyrev on Role, Voice in Southeast Asia

LD2607090594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Video report by correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando, including recorded remarks by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Bangkok; date of Kozyrev's remarks not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The conference of ASEAN countries has ended in Bangkok.

[Shkirando] This is the first meeting of its kind since the ASEAN was set up in 1967. [passage omitted]

Russia, which has the status of a Eurasian power, is regarded with respect here now. Ideas like that of having nuclear free zones in Southeast Asia are a priority for both Russia and the ASEAN alike. At the same time, it is too early to speak of fuli .nutual understanding:

[Kozyrev] Here as well, there are many areas where individual interests are being pursued. In some cases, we play a very active role. In others, we help and give advice. In certain cases, however, we are acting alongside the others for the time being. I mean by this that we have the opportunity, if we need to, to raise our voice.

Concludes Visit to Thailand

LD2507174194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1635 GMT 25 Jul 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspsondents Stanislav BYchkov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, 25 Jul—The official visit to Thailand of the Russian foreign minister ended today with his meeting with Thai king Phumiphon Adunyadet. [passage omitted]

In the course of the visit Andrey Kozyrev had meetings with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri. The top Russian diplomat described the dialogue as "busy and useful." Agreement was reached during the meeting about the possibility of enhancing the treaty basis of bilateral ties. Russia reiterated its readiness to develop broad cooperation with Thailand, including in the sphere of military technology. [passage omitted]

The Russian delegation has now left Bangkok.

Comments on Korean Nuclear Problem

LD2507134494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Stanislav Bychkov and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Bangkok July 25 TASS—It is necessary to discuss ways for stabilising the situation on the Korean Peninsula at an international conference, said on Monday Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, speaking at the ASEAN regional forum in the Thai capital.

According to the minister, the nuclear problem in this region provokes general concern. "Russia supports the dialogue on this issue between North Korea and the United States and hopes for its earliest resumption," Kozyrev noted.

At the same time, he added, the Russian proposal to call an international conference on the entire range of security issues on the Korean Peninsula still holds.

Kozyrev met in Bangkok south Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu heading the South Korean delegation at the ASEAN forum.

Calls Dialogue With Japan 'Normalized'

LD2607112694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that the Russian-Japanese dialogue has normalized. He made the statement on Tuesday en route from Bangkok to Moscow.

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The minister told the reporters who accompanied him that politically there are certain difficulties caused by the domestic situation in Japan where the government changes rapidly.

We are not forcing the issue. It is important to preserve what we already have. Now it is obvious that Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo was necessary, said Kozyrev. He said that the Russian-Japanese relations have a normal character.

Meanwhile, a senior diplomat from Kozyrev's entourage told Interfax that Kozyrev would probably not visit Japan until the political situation stabilized in the country.

The Japanese believe it will take at least one year, and two rounds of parliamentary elections, before the political situation stabilizes in Tokyo, he said. He believes that under these conditions Kozyrev's visit to Japan will not give due impetus to the bilateral relations.

He said that the Japanese Foreign Minister who, like Kozyrev, took part in the Bangkok ASEAN meetings, confirmed the invitation to the Russian Minister to visit Tokyo.

He also said that Moscow is waiting for Japanese Prime Minister Koniichi Murayama. Our invitation stands. However,the visit is hardly possible for the same reasons, said the diplomat.

Comments on Malaysia MiG Deal

LD2607134194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 MT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said some members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) would like to buy Russian weapons.

"The agreement to sell Russian MiGs to Malaysia is the first but apparently not the last of its kind," the minister told an Interfax correspondent who accompanied him on his recent trip to Bangkok. "So far I can't say more than that," he added.

Kozyrev said that, along with its plans to sell arms to Southeast Asian countries, Moscow was proposing confidence-building measures. "Fighting for markets is not the same thing as stirring up the arms race. Russia is not going to make profits on wars," he said.

The minister said it was a "pleasant surprise" that many such proposals that Russia had made at an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Singapore last year had been accepted. One of them was for setting up a conflict-prevention center, a slightly modified version of which was backed up in Bangkok, the venue of another meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers and the association's first forum on security in the region.

Kozyrev told Interfax that Thailand and other ASEAN nations were showing great interest in cooperation with some Russian regions, in particular Siberia and the Far East, but were not yet ready for a "leap." But since "the period of instability in Russia is over and has been replaced by a period of obvious strengthening of political stability, this is ultimately the main factor in attracting Asian capital to the country," which may start "pouring" into Russia in the immediate future, Kozyrev said.

As for Russia's relations with Thailand, the prospects for them are good, the minister said. He said Moscow and Bangkok might soon sign a political agreement.

A source close to Kozyrev told Interfax the minister had handed in to the Thai leadership a draft treaty on basic principles for friendly relations between the two countries. "The idea comes from Bangkok, which makes no secret of its intention to have relations with Russia similar to those Russia already has with Vietnam and Laos," the source said.

For more information on Kozyrev's trip see Tuesday's issue of Interfax's Diplomatic Panorama.

Petrovskiy Interviewed on Tightening Nuclear Bans

MM2607090594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Petrovskiy, UN deputy secretary general, by Konstantin Pribytkov of ITAR-TASS; in Geneva, date not given: "The Nuclear Club Does Not Give Guarantees to Nonnuclear States"]

[Text] Geneva—"Of all the nuclear powers only China is prepared to give nonnuclear countries all the guarantees which they consider a necessary condition of their refusal to acquire nuclear weapons," Vladimir Petrovskiy, UN deputy secretary general, who is also directing the work of the Geneva Disarmament Conference, says.

[Pribytkov] Will the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons be extended?

[Petrovskiy] The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be examined and, hopefully, extended at the conference in 1995. Some states want the treaty to be termless, while others propose periodically extending its validity. The treaty must also be ratified by all the countries which have just nuclear electric power stations and research reactors.

[Pribytkov] Must nuclear tests be banned, or is it possible to carry out any explosions for research purposes?

[Petrovskiy] Work is being carried out within the framework of the Geneva Disarmament Conference on a document on a total test ban. The participants in the discussion proceed from the premise that all nuclear explosions must be banned, including those carried out for peaceful purposes.

[Pribytkov] How can we persuade the countries which might join the nuclear club that they must not do so?

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[Petrovskiy] Nonnuclear states need definite guarantees—the chief condition for maintaining a balance between them and the nuclear powers. In 1968 the Security Council approved the idea of so-called "positive guarantees"—assistance for nonnuclear states in the event of a nuclear attack. In 1978 all five countries which possess such weapons pledged to support a state subjected to a nuclear attack.

But nonnuclear states also want so-called negative guarantees.

Since 1979 the question of such guarantees has been examined at the Disarmament Conference. Nonnuclear countries want a convention based on a simple formula to be adopted: "If we agree not to try to acquire nuclear weapons, you must agree not to use these weapons against us, not to threaten us with the nuclear bomb, and, moreover, to come to our assistance if anybody attempts to do this." There is a rational kernel here. Nevertheless, these proposals have still not been adopted in full.

Yeltsin Says Joint U.S. Exercises To Proceed

LD2207195994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] The Russian-U.S. joint military command exercises will be held at the Totsk test range in the first half of September. State Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov told our radio station of this. The president said that we will not give in to political forces. The exercises will be held, Yushenkov stressed.

S. Yushenkov Lauds Exercise

MM2507131794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "Explosions of Passion Around Totskiy Test Range"]

[Text] Joint Russian-U.S. command-staff exercises by peacemaking forces are scheduled 8 through 16 September 1994 at Orenburg Oblast's Totskiy test range. They were previously scheduled for 6-14 July. However, they were postponed in connection with the local community's sharply negative reaction and a State Duma's message to Boris Yeltsin regarding the inadvisability of holding them.

A delegation comprising Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Duma Committee for Defense ("Russia's Choice" faction); Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Ground Forces; Major General Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy head of the State Duma Committee for Defense ("Russian Way" deputies' group); and committee members Vladimir Volkov (Communist faction) and Georgiy Lukava (Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia faction), has flown out to Orenburg Oblast to study the sociopolitical situation on the spot.

The leaders of the joint exercises have been appointed: On the Russian side, Major General Anatoliy Sedyakin, commander of the 27th Guards Motorized Rifle Division and, on the U.S. side, Major General Leonard Holder, commander of the 3d Infantry Division. Anatoliy Sedyakin briefed delegation members on the plans and level of preparations for the upcoming exercises. According to him, the Russian Army will be represented by 247 people and there will be 249 on the U.S. side. The purpose of the exercises is to rehearse coordination and cooperation between peacemaking forces' subunits in joint peacekeeping operations. According to the general, there is not a single episode involving the use of force in the upcoming exercises, nor a single tracked vehicle. The concept of "operations" presupposes disengaging the "conflicting parties," organizing a security zone, and embarking on active joint patrol duty therein. The cost of the exercise has been borne in full by the U.S. side, which has earmarked around $4 million for the purpose.

Opponents of the joint Russian-U.S. exercises, mainly communist and nationalist force, believe that they humble Russia's national pride and aim to rehearse police measures for the suppression of possible demonstrations by Russia's peoples against the authorities.

The situation is complicated by the fact that a nuclear airburst was first carried out at the Totskiy test range 40 years ago, 14 September 1954. As a result certain local residents suffered injury along with the Soviet soldiers who "were attacking" the adversary through the epicenter of the explosion. The consequences of those exercises were concealed for a long time. They are being hushed up even now.

Sergey Yushenkov said that this problem must be the subject of a parliamentary hearing, however it has nothing to do with the coming joint exercises, which "will help Russia avoid unnecessary human losses in future peacemaking operations." He expressed perplexity that there is so much rumor and conjecture—including rumor that a "large quantity of tanks, aviation, and artillery" will be involved in them—over ordinary planning exercises that will be carried out to a major extent on maps. The committee chairman hopes that, following the delegation members' meetings with the people of Orenburg Oblast and explanatory reports in the press, people will be reassured and realize that the opposition has once again made fools of them for their own political ends. "I think that the question of holding the joint peacemaking exercises will be resolved positively," Sergey Yushenkov stressed, "since sending untrained soldiers into military operations is a betrayal."

But the opposition, which only wants to gain political clout, does not seem to care about that.

Iranian Press Reports on Tajik Talks 'Groundless'

LD2507140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

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[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul—"The allegations in the Iranian press that Russia is trying to trip up the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Transcaucasus and Central Asia are wholly groundless," a highly placed Russian Federation Foreign Ministry official said in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent. He agreed to comment on a TEHRAN TIMES article blaming Moscow for the failure of the intra-Tajik dialogue, the latest round of which ended in the Iranian capital recently. The article also accuses Russia of having "a bad influence on the conflict in the Transcaucasus, which remains unresolved despite mediation efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran." The article also says that, "since the collapse of the USSR, Moscow has been trying to prevent other states from settling crises in Central Asia."

According to the Russian diplomat, the position of the Iranian press is due to a certain degree of inferiority complex and an awareness of the failures of the Iranian leadership's policies in the Islamic regions of the former USSR. It is no secret, he said, that ideas about exporting the Islamic revolution still feature in Iran's foreign policies. Given the latent fight for domination in the power structures, those who belong to the "pragmatists" see this export as taking the form of an exchange of Iran's religious and ideological values with the Muslim communities on the territory of the former USSR. However, the radical clerical circles are not inclined to renounce even some methods with regard to introducing such ideas by force, especially in Persian-speaking Tajikistan. The first Iranian "onslaught" during the "time of troubles" in this Central Asian republic led to failure, as we know, something which disappointed radicals took advantage of in order to attack the Iranian leadership. There was also a temptation to off-load the blame for the failure on to someone else. Russia was the chosen scapegoat.

As for the Transcaucasus, the diplomat went on, to begin with, Iran took an active part in attempts to bring about a peaceful settlement of the conflict. I cannot but point out that both Tehran and Moscow had an equal interest in such a settlement, having cooperated closely within the quadripartite group on Nagorno- Karabakh. For a number of reasons the efforts exerted yielded no positive results. Unfortunately, the idea of taking the leading role in such a situation frequantly gains the upper hand in Tehran, which frankly does not help the matter in hand. We prefer a collective and multi-option approach toward solving such delicate problems. "Russia," the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry official stressed, "advocates good-neighborly relations with the countries of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia, and is by no means opposed to them developing ties with third partners, including Iran. We regard this region as a territory of cooperation, not rivalry."

The official also pointed to a certain divergence between the official position of the Iranian leadership with regard to Russia's policies in the region, and the position of some of Iran's mass media. He emphasized that the bilateral consultations between Tehran and Moscow on the situation in the Transcaucasus are continuing, that intensive contacts are being conducted on the intra-Tajik dialogue, and that a fair degree of mutual understanding has emerged over these matters.

"The TEHRAN TIMES article appears to be the latest manifestation of the internal political infighting in the power structures and is prompted by forces which do not want stability in Russian-Iranian relations," the Russian diplomat declared.

Indian Air Staff Chief Holds Talks on Arms Sales

LD2507130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kozmin]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul—India is studying the possibility of purchasing state-of-the-art military weapons and technical equipment in Russia, including Su-30 operational aircraft and a new modification of the MiG-29, which is known throughout the world for its unique flying characteristics. This was the comment made by a Russian Federation Air Force Main Staff spokesman concerning today's meeting between Air Marshal S.K. Kaul, chief of air staff of India, and Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force of Russia.

In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Vladimir Romanov, chief of the cooperation department of the Air Force Main Staff, said that Russia had not yet delivered the Su-30 abroad. According to the spokesman, questions of guaranteeing the operation of military weapons and technical equipment produced in the USSR, and already possessed by the Indian Air Force, including the delivery of spare parts, were also discussed. The sides expressed an interest in developing ties between the military pilots of both countries on the basis of a long-term mutually beneficial partnership. S.K. Kaul proposed a meeting soon not only at the level of commanders-in-chief, but also between the individual subunits of the national air forces, to exchange experience. The air marshal thinks that it may be possible for Russian pilots to spend time on probation in Indian Air Force higher educational institutions.

S.K. Kaul will also meet Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, director general of the Rosvooruzheniye [Russian armaments] company, to discuss specific questions concerning the sale of Russian military weapons and technical equipment on the world market.

Soskovets Talks in Turkey Seen Successful

MM2607083394 Moscow TRUD in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 6

[Report by Vladimir Khovratovich: "No, What We Need Is the Turkish Shore"]

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[Text] Istanbul—The results of the visit of an impressive Russian delegation headed by Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Government, have been received with great interest in Turkey. On the last day of their stay the high-level visitors from Moscow were acquainted with the sights of Istanbul; of course there was also the traditional alisveris [alysh-verish], that is to say, shopping in the famous Old Bazaar. And in the four working days the representatives of Russian Government and business circles managed to resolve several very important questions in Russian-Turkish relations.

Several seminar meetings with representatives of Turkish business circles, which, as we know, are actively accessing the Russian market, were held in Antalya. However, the main purpose of the delegation's visit was to resolve the problem of settling Russia's debt to Turkey, which today stands at around $550 million. The Russian side proposed to pay the sum of $100 million this year and to pay a further $190 million per year over the following two years in commodities. But unusual commodities—deliveries of weapons of various kinds.

Two further problems in Russian-Turkish relations were also resolved. The first concerns the construction of an oil pipeline from Baku to the Turkey's southeastern Mediterranean coast. In the opinion of the Turkish press, Russia is continually torpedoing this project. However, O. Soskovets removed the problem by announcing that the two sides have been working on this question in Ankara for a month already. Second, there were the new Turkish-proposed regulations for the passage of shipping through the straits, which came into force from 1 July. The Russian side stated on this issue that it "has complied, and will continue to comply, with all rules which do not contravene international conventions."

The delegation has performed its task, that is, in O. Soskovets' expression, it "made a start to the formation of new relations between post-1991 free Russia and Turkey." And although the total value of trade between Russia and Turkey currently stands at $4 billion per year, the prospects for increasing this are encouraging. Especially since at his meeting with O. Soskovets Turkish President S. Demirel indicated a target of $10 billion for total trade for the next few years.

Rybkin, Saudi Ambassador Favor Boost in Relations

LD2507210494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2045 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, met with 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah, Saudi Arabian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, on Monday.

A most auspicious period for developing economic, political and cultural relations between Russia and Saudi Arabia has set in, the press service of the lower house of Russian parliament quoted the ambassador as saying at the meeting.

Russia and Saudi Arabia are not only close to each other geographically, but also have some cultural traditions in common, 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah pointed out.

Saudi Arabia is the only Islamic country to pursue a balanced policy, declare against any violence and strive for a close cooperation with Russia, he said.

Rybkin also expressed desire "to cooperate with countries which support our democratic reforms" and confirmed that a sensible majority of russian lawmakers aspire to build a firm legislative basis for the reforms.

He alluded to the fact that Russian lawmakers passed the civic code, which provides for "strict rules of the game under economic pluralism", which is important for businessmen, particularly foreign ones, because their investments are thus protected.

Russians in Latvia May Be Left 'High and Dry'

MM2607080794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "The Russian Army Will Leave Latvia Ahead of Schedule"]

[Text] Riga—The Latvian leadership and diplomats accredited in the republic have received invitations to the ceremonial send-off of the last Russian combat unit. It will leave the territory of the Baltic state 30 July.

The news came unexpectedly to experts and the mass media and in a somewhat roundabout way. The district headquarters of the Northwest Group of Forces confirmed: Yes, such a measure is being prepared. At one of the embassies an invitation was shown. But, according to Sergey Zotov, ambassador for special assignments and leader of the Russian delegation at the talks with Latvia, who is in Riga, "neither the Duma nor the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been informed about an early ceremonial send-off."

Sergey Zotov called the ratification of the troop withdrawal treaty and the associated agreements the key question in the two countries' relations. This document was signed in Moscow 30 April by the presidents of the two countries—Guntis Ulmanis and Boris Yeltsin. At a meeting with Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs the leader of the Russian delegation informed him that the Duma was ready to ratify it before breaking up for the summer vacation. According to the ambassador for special assignments, the Latvian leadership was unable to give guarantees that the Latvian Saeima was also ready to complete the ratification process. This creates a completely new, unpredictable situation, and the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Russian president will be informed of it.

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In the unanimous estimation of observers, the new political situation in Latvia will call in question the viability of the bilateral document which was prepared and signed with such difficulty. The national independence movement has been entrusted with forming a new Cabinet of Ministers, yet that party voted against the treaty, considering the document "traitorous." Without the treaty (if the Latvian Saeima does not ratify it, it becomes invalid) the Russian troop withdrawal will create many problems. Above all, Russian military pensioners (social protection for them was stipulated in one of the agreements) will be left "high and dry" without status. Disputed ownership questions will remain unresolved—under the treaty they were to have been resolved by a joint Russian-Latvian commission.

Joint Naval Exercises Held in Black Sea

LD2507171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1151 GMT 25 Jul 94

[by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk—TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol, 25 Jul—Breeze '94, operational tactical- level exercises of the Bulgarian Navy, begin today in the southwest of the Black Sea. Sailors from a number of Black Sea and Mediterranean countries and from the United States are taking part in the exercises. The Black Sea Fleet is represented in the exercises by the patrol vessel Ladnyy.

For the first time sailors from Ukraine are represented in a large-scale naval operation of this kind, alongside colleagues from Greece, Romania, and Turkey. The Ukrainian Navy's small ASW ship Lutsk, under the command of Rear Admiral Aleksey Ryzhenko, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Navy, is taking part in the exercises.

Army Paper on Military Agreements With Kyrgyzstan

MM2507143794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Russia and Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] Have Signed Agreements on Military Cooperation"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, met with Lieutenant General Myrzakan Subanov, the Kirghiz defense minister, yesterday. During the meeting a number of documents were signed within the framework of implementing the main Treaty on Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kirghizia.

From the whole package of documents the ones to be highlighted are the Agreement on the Military Service of Citizens of the Russian Federation in the Armed Forces of Kirghizia and Their Status, and also the intergovernmental Agreement on the Procedure for Material-Technical and Trade-Consumer Services for Russian Military Units Stationed on the Territory of the Kirghiz Republic.

Commenting on the Agreement on the Military Service of Citizens of the Russian Federation in the Armed Forces of Kirghizia, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed that it is an example of close cooperation between the two countries on a firm legal basis. This is precisely the way in which mutual relations between the two independent states should be formed in the future.

The Russian defense minister went on to note that it is not easy for Kirghizia to create its own armed forces today. The main problem is the shortage of experienced and skilled military cadres, especially at the higher management level. Russia will give the young republic help in training them.

The second important factor affecting the interests of thousands of Russian officers is their status and the conditions of their service in the Kirghiz Armed Forces. The agreement signed resolves several of the problems and clearly prescribes the procedure for the payment of pensions after service under contract, the construction and provision of housing, the regulations for the shipment of the personal property of officers and members of their families in the event of their return to Russia, and other relevant questions.

As noted by the experts who took part in the elaboration of these documents, these agreements correspond to the present-day norms of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. This has been made possible thanks to the active participation in the preparation of the documents of specialists not only from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry but also the Foreign Ministry, the Russian President's State-Legal Administration, and the Russian Government.

Official Terms NATO 'Limited,' Stresses CSCE Importance

LD2207200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] To expand NATO by admitting Central and East European countries and the Baltic states is not conducive to strengthening security and stability in Europe, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European Cooperation Department, Andrey Androsov, told Interfax on Friday.

"We proceed from the assumption that the endeavors to create a system of collective security in Europe must not exclude a single European nation," he said. "As for NATO, today it is an organization of limited composition," he said.

Russia believes that today the role of the guarantor of collective security in Europe must be played by the

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Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)—an organization which includes every country on the continent, Androsov pointed out.

Ottawa Talks Reveal Harmony on 'Virtually All' Topics

MM2507131594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "At the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry": "Russian and Canadian Standpoints Coincide"]

[Text] "Russia attaches great significance to the strengthening of stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region and suggests that it can play a positive, constructive role in achieving this task," Aleksandr Panov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, stated in a speech to foreign diplomats accredited in Ottawa at the Canadian Center for Global Security Problems.

The Russian diplomat and Canadian deputy foreign minister Gary Smith held bilateral Russian-Canadian talks in the Canadian capital, discussing a broad sphere of political, economic, and other questions concerning the situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The consultations revealed a coincidence in the two countries' positions on virtually all the topics discussed, A. Panov said, including the forthcoming forum on regional security problems in Bangkok. "Both our assessments of the situation in the region and the interests of Russia and Canada there are identical," he indicated, noting that "Canada is in favor of a more active Russian participation in Asian affairs, and stresses its desire for our active involvement in the region's life, especially its economic activity."

The deputy foreign minister dwelt especially on the situation on the Korean peninsula, noting that Russia advocates the holding of an international conference to discuss questions connected with North Korea's nuclear program.

Kim Chong-il Said Supported by DPRK Elite

MM2507130994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22-25 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Maksim Petrov under the "Appointments" rubric: "The Dear Leader [Rukovoditel] Becomes the Leader [Vozhd]"]

[Excerpts] The Korean biography entitled "Kim Chong-il. The People's Leader" says that "his childhood was spent in a grim atmosphere—surrounded by war. The secret camp of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was his cradle. The cartridge belt and the magazine were his toys. From the very first days of his life the child had to get used to the howling blizzard."

The new leader of the North Korean people was born 16 February 1942 in the tiny Siberian village of Vyatskoye in Khabarovsk Kray. [passage omitted]

When the son needed experience he was found a place in the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department, which was run by Kim Chong-il's uncle. And when the uncle was sacked, Chong-il took his place and later became a Central Committee secretary.

Since the early eighties the son was being groomed to succeed his father. Gradually key state posts were given to him. Propaganda called him the nation's number two man. The country began to live not only heeding the brilliant leadership of the Great Leader [Vozhd] but also following the injunctions of the Dear Leader [Rukovoditel]. While his father was still alive, Kim Chong-il became supreme commander in chief, took control of the state security service, and received a marshal's baton.

The new DPRK leader is married to a distant relative. He has a son and a daughter. He is a good family man but likes to relax in the company of show business stars. Alla Pugacheva has twice visited Pyongyang to entertain Kim Chong-il.

Chong-il's mother died in 1949 in childbirth, it is said. Admittedly, malicious tongues claim that she committed suicide when she learned of her husband's infidelity. Relations between Kim junior and his stepmother, Kim Il-song's former secretary, did not work out well. His stepbrothers, although not poor, do not have even one-hundredth of Kim Chong-il's power and status. None of them can compete when it comes to inheriting power.

Kim Chong-il is also supported by the "elders" of the Korean elite, people like Defense Minister O Chin-u, who came with Kim Song-il from Khabarovsk Kray and has known Kim Chong-il since he was in diapers, by classmates from the military academy, and by younger officials. Now he is the Leader [Vozhd] to whom the Korean people have already sworn loyalty.

Foreign Ministry Chiefs Discuss Africa Policies

MM2507130794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Gorokhov: "African Leaders Coming to Moscow"]

[Text] Russia now needs new mechanisms for political and economic cooperation with African countries. This was the outcome—summed up by Leonid Safonov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa Department—of the discussion at a two-day conference of Russian ambassadors to African countries.

Held with the participation of Viktor Chernomyrdin, Andrey Kozyrev, and the heads of a number of central institutions, it was, in the words of one diplomat, the

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most representative discussion of the problems of relations with sub-Saharan countries in the entire history of the Smolensk Square diplomatic department. The leaders of Russian Federation missions in Black Africa—32 embassies and the Cape Town Consulate General—and of seven embassies in North African countries were invited to take part.

This conference was made necessary above all by the profound changes within Russia. They have made very major amendments to all aspects of the state's activity. The most important of these is that the ideologized basis of ties that subordinated economics to politics and allowed some African countries to become dependent on loans has become a thing of the past.

L. Safonov noted that important changes are also taking place on the African continent itself. Profound democratic processes are taking place in a number of countries, economies are being liberalized, and restructuring is being carried out. All this has been dictated by the search for new complementary links.

The discussion at the conference was frank, and our partners will be informed about its content. This will allow them to get a better idea of Russia's priorities and abilities today.

At a time when there are a lot of conflicts in Africa, Russia is sometimes rebuked for being unable to send more servicemen to peacekeeping contingents or to supply free food. But it should not be forgotten that our country has plenty of problems of its own—and not only domestic Russian problems, but those related to the role it plays within the CIS. In this sphere you get no feeling of particular political support from the world community, let alone material support, and we will have to carry a very major burden alone.

What Russia is able to do today it is doing, L. Safonov continued. By agreement between the Russian Federation Ministry for Emergency Situations and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a special motor transport detachment has been set up to deliver food, medicine, and other goods to Rwandan refugee camps.

As for economic aid to African countries, until we can organize a normal life in our own home it would be wrong to put to our own people the question of providing extensive aid. The forms of ties in the sphere of education also need to be reviewed. More than 5,000 African students are receiving a free education in Russia, but, L. Safonov stressed, cooperation should mainly be switched to a fee-paying basis.

The problem of refugees from conflict zones in Africa will have to be solved. They are increasingly arriving in Russia. We need acts of legislation to allow us to regulate their status and the conditions for their stay. These are matters for the immigration service and for the State Duma.

With consideration for the interests of both Russia and the African countries it will even be possible to resolve the debt problem—sub-Saharan countries owe Russian around $19 billion. Repayment of this money could take different forms—writing off part of the debt, payment in hard currency or in the form of goods, or the granting of investment opportunities to Russia. The fact that mutually advantageous solutions in the business sphere are possible is shown, for instance, by the agreement for the Russian side to take part in building and operating an international-class hotel in Tanzania.

The two-day comprehensive discussion of ties with Africa brought to an end a hiatus in high-level contacts. We have learned that, in particular, the leaders of South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Zambia are planning visits to Russia. The creation of a reliable legal and treaty basis for relations with the continent was also deemed to be an important task.

Ivanov Promises New 'Initiative' at Budapest Summit

LD2507120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1132 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul—While tackling individual problems such as the settlement of acute conflict situations, we are also thinking about how we will live in the 21st century. Igor Ivanov, Russian first deputy foreign minister, announced this today following talks held here with Greek Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis, who is paying an official visit to Moscow.

Igor Ivanov said that as part of a discussion at the talks on issues relating to creating a system of stability and security in Europe, the Greek minister was briefed on a new Moscow initiative which is to be presented at the CSCE summit of heads of state and government in Budapest. This initiative, the first deputy minister said, is a comprehensive program envisaging a package of long-term measures in the military-political and economic spheres, and the spheres of observance of human rights and protection of the rights of national minorities. Russia has already notified all interested parties, including the CIS states, about this initiative. We are ready to invite parties wishing to join in the initiative to be co-authors so as to give the Russian proposals that much more weight, Igor Ivanov added.

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Political Issues

Kostikov Issues Statement on Chechen Developments

LD2507174494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1624 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—ITAR-TASS today received a statement from Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary to the president of the Russian Federation, which reads:

"An increasing number of appeals, letters, and telegrams from Chechnya, with evidence of numerous incidents of human rights violations and armed clashes resulting in civilian casualties have lately been received by the president of the Russian Federation and by his administration.

"The president is carefully studying information about developments in the Chechen Republic. He hopes that active unification of healthy political forces will steer the Chechen Republic out of its grave economic and political crisis and protect the rights of individuals to peaceful life and work."

Yeltsin Extends N. Ossetia State of Emergency

LD2507182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1739 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today repealing from 1400 on 31 July 1994 the state of emergency in parts of the Republic of North Ossetia and of the Ingush Republic, which was imposed by the decree of the Russian Federation president of 30 May 1994, and imposing—on the basis of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic] law "On State of Emergency"—the state of emergency in some territories of the above-mentioned republics starting from 1400 on 31 July 1994 until 1400 on 30 September 1994. This was announced by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

The decree was signed in connection with continuing tensions in some areas of the Republic of North Ossetia and of the Ingush Republic, and also in connection with the need to secure the return of refugees and displaced persons to the areas of their permanent residence and to implement a complex of measures to clear up the aftermath of the armed conflict, with the aim of ensuring state and public security, in accordance with article 88 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, with the RSFSR law "On State of Emergency," and with the Russian Federation law "On Security."

Yeltsin Aides Meet With Government Representatives

MK2607073194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—A conference of the president's staff and parliamentary representatives on interaction in lawmaking opened at "Forest Vistas" [Lesnyye Dali] guest house near Moscow on Monday. The participants intend to discuss the results of interaction between the two branches in lawmaking, the possibility of forming a unified program in this field, and ways to make parliament's activity more effective. The president's staff is represented by the president's aide Georgiy Satarov and the president's plenipotentiary representative in the State Duma Aleksandr Yakovlev. The government and parliament are represented by Andrey Sebentsov, first deputy chief of staff, and Mikhail Mityukov, first vice-speaker of the State Duma, respectively.

Talks Reveal 'Serious Flaws'

LD2507200794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1848 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Representatives of the Russian president, government and parliament discussed the state law-making program on Monday.

According to INTERFAX sources, they revealed serious flaws in the lawmaking process and recommended that the Federal Assembly draft a law on the state law-making program.

Commenting on this decision, the State Duma's First Vice Chairman Mikhail Mityukov told INTERFAX that the idea of drafting such a law was not new and that it had been originally proposed in Soviet time.

Now this program has become particularly acute, because the constituent members of the Russian Federation, of which there are a considerable number, have the right to initiate legislation and sometimes their drafts require further work.

A law-making program will unite the efforts of the government, president, deputies and all those who create laws.

It must be adopted as soon as possible, as the Federal Assembly and the Russian leaders are faced with the task of adopting laws vitally important for Russia's development, said Mityukov.

The program is to help avoid the mistakes of the past, when the former parliament passed laws which did not work, he said.

Advisory Council for Social Sphere Set Up

MM2507125594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 94 First Edition p 4

[Directive No. 1049-D of the Russian Federation Government, dated 5 July 1994, Moscow, and signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government]

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[Text] In view of the recommendations of the third seminar-conference on "Practice of and Prospects for the Implementation of the Powers of Russian Federation Components in the Interests of the Social Development of the Regions":

1. A Council on the Development of the Social Sphere (hereinafter, Council) is to be formed as a consultative body.

2. The Council's main tasks will be as follows:

to analyze processes taking place in the social sphere in regions of the Russian Federation;

to evaluate draft normative acts of the Russian Federation Government on social matters;

to prepare proposals on making Russian Federation government social policy more effective.

3. Yu.F. Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, is to be appointed chairman of the Council.

4. It is laid down that the personnel of the Council will be drawn by the Council chairman from among the deputy leaders of organs of executive power dealing with social matters in the Russian Federation components on a rotating basis. The Council will meet at least once a quarter with the participation of leaders of federal organs of executive power in the social sphere and also of interested ministries and departments.

5. Organizational and technical support of the Council's work will be the job of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus Department of Labor, Health, and Social Protection of the Population.

6. It is laid down that expenditure associated with the Council's work will come out of the relevant federal budget funds for financing the activities of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Yeltsin Staff Seen Hobbling Rights Body

MM2507142594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Leonid Nikitinskiy: "'Secret' Human Rights Report Gets Stuck in Presidential Staff's Corridors"]

[Text] On Thursday [21 July] the State Duma adopted the federal constitutional Law "On a Human Rights Commissioner" on first reading by a two-thirds vote in favor. Giving the Russian ombudsman and his service legal status not only follows from the constitution but is also becoming a pressing need as of today: So far the activity of the Russian Federation president's Human Rights Commission has not, to put it mildly, enjoyed the favor of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

To all intents and purposes not having a "residence permit" or even permanent telephone numbers, this commission, headed by Human Rights Commissioner S. Kovalev, the famous human rights campaigner, prepared a report "On the Observance of Human and Civil Rights in the Russian Federation" and sent it to President B. Yeltsin on 5 July. The 100-page document was compiled on the basis of an analysis of judicial practice, material obtained from law-enforcement organs, citizens' complaints and statements, and special investigations of the most serious human rights violations undertaken by the commission, sometimes in cooperation with nongovernmental and international organizations.

Besides the positive changes primarily concerning the legislative enshrinement of constitutional human rights in the Russian Federation, including the extension of legal protection for them, the report notes cases whereby state administration organs and officials at various levels have practically ignored and violated human and civil rights.

The commission is especially concerned by cases whereby the level of human rights guarantees compared with constitutional norms is being reduced as a matter of course by regional organs of both the representative and executive branches, specifically in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg and in certain national republics.

Note is taken of the unfavorable situation concerning the observance of human rights that has developed in the penitentiary system and Armed Forces, and in relation to refugees and forced settlers, as well as in relation to Russian citizens and the Russian-speaking population in nearby foreign countries. Specific cases of discrimination based on ethnic origin are cited.

Concluding that the existing law-enforcement organs system is not coping with the tasks of protecting human rights in the new conditions, and that nongovernmental organizations with the appropriate experience are not receiving support, the commission expresses the opinion that all these cases combined are destabilizing the political situation in Russia, intensifying social tension, and creating a breeding ground for antidemocratic sentiments.

Besides analyzing specific cases of human rights violations the report proposes specific measures aimed at ensuring stricter observance of rights both legislatively and organizationally. These proposals formed the basis of the draft "Federal Action Program for Human Rights in the Russian Federation," which was previously sent to the president.

But so far there has been no reaction from the president or Presidential Staff to the documents received. Nobody, including Human Rights Commissioner Kovalev, has information as to whether they have reached Yeltsin's desk or have been held up in his secretariat, although the essence and substance of these documents could be

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concealed from the president only if he had been deprived of free access to the mass media.

In parallel with the preparation of the Human Rights Commission report the presidential Public Chamber, which "succeeded" the Constitutional Conference, expressed its intention in accordance with its own approved statute, which gives it the task of serving as a conduit between the president and wide circles of public opinion, to consider the question of the observance of human rights in the Russian Federation at its 16 July session.

The agenda for this Public Chamber session was approved by S. Filatov, leader of the Presidential Staff. But the future attitude to the idea of the public's considering this question in all likelihood changed following the adoption of the 14 June presidential edict "On Measures To Protect the Population Against Gangsterism...." The obstreperous "chamber" also aroused the displeasure of some of the president's entourage by not approving the aforementioned edict and by its willful resolution against Shumeyko's proposal to postpone elections for the two branches of power.

There are also other circumstances indicating that the Human Rights Commission report was "surplus to requirements" and that it has become the object of red tape in the apparatus. Thus, according to some reports the Presidential Staff has seriously discussed proposals to stamp the report "For Official Use."

This change of heart in the Presidential Staff, if the reason for it really was the 14 July edict, can be attributed to the bureaucratic logic of clerks but cannot be understood within the framework of presidential-level political thinking: From this standpoint the edict, which envisages extending administrative organs' powers in the fight against crime, on the contrary needs a its legal counterweight through increased attention to human rights and strengthened, appropriate guarantees.

Machine-Building Union Withdraws Support for Civic Accord

LD2507151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Central Committee of Russia's Machine-Building Workers' Union decided to cancel its chairman's signature to the Pact on Civic Accord and to continue collective actions of protest. As Interfax learned at the press service of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, the union's leadership announced its decision in a letter addressed to the chief of the presidential administration Sergey Filatov.

According to the letter, the decision to revoke support for the Pact was prompted by the "catastrophic" socio-economic situation at most machine-building plants: in the first half of this year the slump in production rose to 44.7%.

Many plants have ground to a halt and their personnel were left without the means of subsistence. The government not only failed to improve the economic situation in the country and in the machine- building industry, but did not even reply to the Union's appeal, the Central Committee stressed in its letter.

Decree Lists Those Appointed Supreme Court Judges

MM2507150194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 156-1 of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council "On the Appointment of Russian Federation Supreme Court Judges," dated 12 July 1994, Moscow, and signed by V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council]

[Text] In accordance with Point "g" of Part 1 of Article 102 and with Part 1 of Article 128 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federation Council rules that:

The following persons are to be appointed Russian Federation Supreme Court judges:

Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Burov; Anatoliy Filippovich Gusev; Galina Alekseyevna Kolycheva; Aleksandr Fedorovich Kosykhin; Galina Petrovna Melkonyan; Yevgeniy Ivanovich Morozov; Vasiliy Ivanovich Nechayev; Mikhail Konstantinovich Otrezov; Margarita Aleksandrovna Rodionova; Aleksandr Andreyevich Sergeyev; Gennadiy Ivanovich Solovyev; Veniamin Petrovich Stepanov; Tatyana Tikhonovna Taldykina, and Nikolay Romanovich Shestakov.

[signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council.
[dated]Moscow, 12 July 1994.

Loss of Public Respect for State Duma Viewed

MM2507160194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Pavlov: "Will the Deputies Return From the Summer Recess?"]

[Text] Will the deputies return from the summer recess? That question is being asked by many politicians today. Above all by members of the Duma. Some in jest, others in earnest, but all with a high level of persistence. Especially vigilant in this regard are the Zhirinovskiyites, whose criticisms range in seriousness from the minor—the never-ending repair of the State Duma building—to the major—the anti-Duma actions of the power ministries at parliamentary recess time. Time will tell how valid such predictions are but the time has come right now to consider the factors which have prompted such misgivings.

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One factor is that the Duma has not managed to establish itself as a political organ. It is not so much to do with the quantity and quality of the laws which have been adopted—ultimately it is the specialists and not the Duma members who have to work on them—so much as of the effectiveness of its role as a political instrument. And that, in the opinion of the observers, is very slight.

The Duma's most "brilliant" political step may be considered the amnesty which was designed to bring accord and tranquility to civil society.

Did it manage to achieve that political goal? The debates and discord among the Duma factions over the Social Accord Treaty effectively undermined its noble intentions. And they convincingly showed that the principledness of the majority of people's elected representatives remains nothing more than a form of political intrigue. The complete impunity of the politicians who chose the path of rebellion and bloodshed created in society not a sense of accord but of disgust and distrust toward the authorities. And primarily toward the Duma, which demonstrated by its most sensational political gesture not so much its power as its lack of power.

This Duma quality is shown particularly clearly by the fact that the principle of the separation of powers remains just a pipedream for the Russians. Life has shown that if deputies do not adopt this or that urgent law, an urgent decision is adopted by presidential edict or government decree. But even that is not the State Duma's great flop. Despite assembling the representatives of the country's different political forces under its "parliamentary roof," the Duma has nevertheless not become a political center for the coordination of society's interests or the political center of the parliamentary system. By failing to show political will for that purpose and rise above clan interests, it is now tacitly becoming a hotbed of confrontation and vulgar democratism.

Issue eight of the newspaper OPPOZITSIYA, the mouthpiece of the parliamentary opposition, spells out its plans absolutely clearly: "Is it good or bad that the Duma has become a definite opposition base? After all, those who have gone there seem thus to have compromised with Yeltsin—they have become a cover for his despotic rule. And they seemed to have publicly recognized Yeltsin's constitution... Therefore there is only one question of principle: Will the opposition become stronger as a result of the Duma's activity or not? This determines the priorities. First of all, to wrest the maximum of material and financial resources from the regime and use them to organize opposition structures..."

But this is only one aspect of "Duma" activity. The second is determined by people in business and commerce, often people with a dubious past, whose deputy's seats also gave them deputy's immunity. Their abundance in the legislative chamber is gradually transforming the Duma into a kind of joint venture to lobby for the interests of various clans and provide services as middlemen.

The State Duma may not have become "tame," as many politicians and political scientists warned in the run-up to the parliamentary elections, but nor has it declared itself as a serious political organ of power. The State Duma has now proved to be somewhat akin to a suitcase without a handle: It is difficult to carry but it would be a shame to throw it away. So the logical question is this: Will the Duma return after the summer recess?

Media Issues

Press, Mass Media Freedom Inspectorate Abolished

MM2507125194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jul 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 810 of the Russian Federation Government, signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and dated Moscow, 6 July 1994: "On the Abolition of the State Inspectorate for the Defense of the Freedom of the Press and Mass Media Under the Former Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Mass Media"]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation president's edict No. 2255 of 22 December 1993 "On Improving State Administration in the Sphere of the Mass Media" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII 1993, No. 52, p 5067), and in accordance with the distrubution of functions of monitoring compliance with Russian Federation legislation on the press and mass media to the appropriate jurisdiction of the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadasting, the Court of Appeal for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation President, and the Russian Federation Committee for the Press, the Russian Federation Government decrees:

1. That the State Inspectorate for the Defense of the Freedom of the Press and the Mass Media under the former Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Mass Media (hereinafter the State Inspectorate) is to be abolished.

2. A liquidation commission is to be formed to resolve questions connected with the abolition of the State Inspectorate according to established procedure.

V.S. Mironov, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press, is to be appointed chairman of the liquidation commission and is instructed to determine the composition of the commission. The abolition of the inspectorate is to be implemented by 25 July 1994.

3. Expenses connected with the abolition of the State Inspectorate are to be financed by federal budget funds provided for the maintenance of federal organs of state power.

4. The Russian Federation Committee for the Press is to be vested with the functions of ensuring the monitoring

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of compliance with Russian Federation legislation in the sphere of the press and the licensing of publishing and printing activity hitherto performed by the State Inspectorate.

5. The Russian Federation Committee for the Press is to resolve within one month according to established procedure the organizational, financial, and property questions connected with the activity of the territorial organs of the abolished State Inspectorate.

6. The following are deemed to have lapsed:

RSFSR Council of Ministers decree No. 566 of 25 October 1991 "Questions of the State Inspectorate for the Defense of the Freedom of the Press and Mass Media Under the RSFSR Ministry of Press and Mass Media";

Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government decree No. 902 of 9 September 1993 "Questions of the State Inspectorate for the Defense of the Freedom of the Press and Mass Media Under the Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Mass Media" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII 1993, No. 38, p 3526).

[signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government
[dated] Moscow, 6 July 1994

Yeltsin Orders Publication of Archive Journal

LD2507221794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1643 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 25 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin today instructed the presidential administration to found a journal entitled VESTNIK ARKHIVA PREZIDENTA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII [Herald of the Russian Federation President's Archive].

The journal's main task will be to inform Russia's citizens and its scientific community about well-known and previously poorly accessible documents kept in the Russian Federation president's archive. This was reported by the Russian Federation president's press office.

Economic Issues

Filatov Denies Rumors of Yeltsin-Duma Quarrel

LD2507181594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The president's chief of staff Sergey Filatov flatly denied rumors that Yeltsin's decree on the second stage of privatization would lead to a quarrel between the head of state and the Duma.

He told Interfax that the decree, signed on Friday, incorporated numerous proposals made by the deputies during the discussion of the privatization bill.

In particular, before a federal act is passed, state- and municipally-owned educational and medical institutions will not be privatized.

Filatov also said that, as proposed by the deputies, the privatization transactions will be carried out by several bodies of authorities so as to minimize the chances for corruption.

Georgiy Satarov, a presidential aid, thought that there was not a hint of a confrontation between parliament and president.

He told journalists that the relations between the two developed as a healthy dialog. In his words, the technology of them is not flawless and so they are not quite efficient but the potential is healthy.

He admitted that the president and the State Duma disagreed on certain bills but these differences were not destructive.

Approach to Issue of State Bonds Questioned

MM2507150794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Finance Ministry Starting To Show Caution About Selling Its Shorts"]

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry has held another auction of state short-term bonds, the income from which, as is well known, is practically our only civilized and noninflationary way of covering the budget deficit. One trillion rubles [R] worth of these securities were offered for sale, and virtually all were taken up.

State shorts are still one of the most profitable and reliable ways for banks and other commercial structures to invest—all the more so as the foreign exchanges have now become less attractive. It was no accident that the bonds were approximately 20-percent oversubscribed at the latest auction. But, at the same time, there is a certain amount of caution in specialists' assessments of the prospects for developing the state shorts market. And you can understand why.

The fact is that previous issues of state short-term bonds were redeemed by issuing new ones. And, in order to redeem the bonds with an added small interest payment, it is necessary to constantly increase the value of securities issued at each successive auction. Eventually demand for the bonds will inevitably hit a ceiling of effective demand—in other words, the availability of spare cash on the part of the banks. The Finance Ministry will then have to redeem state shorts out of the budget—and, of course, there is no money in the budget for this purpose.

Of course, turnover in our state securities market at the moment is immeasurably smaller than in other civilized countries, and the fears expressed above can be seen as hypothetical. But, on the other hand, comparing our financial market to markets in other countries is a

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thankless task. Any instability in our country, including political instability, can lead to a loss of confidence in state bonds. And then the Finance Ministry will have to find money from the budget to redeem state shorts earlier than expected.

Obviously the Finance Ministry is well aware of this. It was no accident that the recent bond issue was 1.5 times lower than the previous auction—which was R1.5 trillion. The government is clearly starting to show caution, and not without reason.

There is also another consideration that makes us doubt the expediency of rapidly increasing the volume of state short-term bond issues—namely, the increase in state domestic debt. If the money raised were used effectively by the government and led to an increase in production—and consequently to increased budget revenue—then policy in the sphere of state short-term bonds might be understandable. But there is currently no effectiveness in the way that funds are spent—and, consequently, there is no very good foundation for increasing state domestic debt.

Law on 'Subsistence Minimum' May Not Apply to Able-Bodied

MM2507122794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Arkadiy Solovyev, secretary of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia: "Russia Offered Life at the Subsistence Wage. Twenty-Five Million People Do Not Have Elementary Means of Existence"]

[Text] Many heated arguments rage between supporters and opponents of the current reforms, but one thing is generally recognized: As a result of "shock therapy" the people's standard of living has retreated to the level of 30-35 years ago. There are many reasons for this, and they are well known. The standard of living in "civilized countries," as it has become fashionable to call them today, is subject to state regulation.

But in our country the remnants of the socialist system of state regulation of living standards have today been lost (the "free" social consumption funds have disappeared, and free housing, medicine, culture, education, and so forth, have been consigned to oblivion). Instead citizens have been granted the right not to receive pay in the amount and at the times laid down by the Labor Law Code, while social benefits and pensions enable them to buy only half of the minimum food basket.

It is order to guard against a further uncontrolled fall in the population's living standards that the law "On the Subsistence Minimum in the Russian Federation" elaborated by the Ministry of Labor following repeated instructions from the president is necessary.

For over two years now, since the well-known edict on the system of minimum consumer budgets (April 1992), trade unions have been seeking the legislative enshrinement of a subsistence minimum as a social indicator and standard below which the income of hired employees in enterprises within all forms of ownership (above all state enterprises) should not fall. This rule should be extended to all forms of social benefits, compensation payments, and pensions.

It should be remembered that in May the subsistence minimum for the able-bodied population stood at 88,000 rubles [R] with a minimum wage of R14,620.

This means that no less than 25 million people (around 17 percent of the population), according to the official statistics, do not have the elementary means of existence. This is why the establishment by law of a restriction on the ratio between the minimum wage and the subsistence minimum in the form of the draft under discussion is awaited with impatience by all these suffering people. But here a second question arises. After all, if even now, when the minimum wage is just 18 percent of the subsistence minimum, there is "not enough" money to pay budget-financed workers, what "losses" would increasing this ratio twofold entail for the government purse? According to estimates, this would cost the federal budget an additional R2-4 trillion per month. To this should be added pensions, grants, benefits, and compensations. The sums which result are astronomical, and the state budget has naturally never had them, nor ever will.

It is therefore not surprising that in government circles, especially in the Ministry of Finance, plans are being hatched, if not to freeze this draft law, then at least to exclude the main expenditure contingent from its sphere of operation—able-bodied citizens.

Such proposals were treated very seriously during the discussion in the State Duma, where the law was adopted at its first reading. Of course, it is possible to understand that if there is no money for everyone, then it is better to pay something at least to the poorest of the poor, that is to say, invalids, pensioners, children, single mothers, and so forth. But then it would no longer be the same law and would not achieve the same task.

Obviously, the prime necessity for a solution to the problem of impoverishment and maintaining living standards is not additional guarantees for socially vulnerable citizens, but guarantees for the survival of the able-bodied, working population. Only if their pay allows them to live properly will those who are not able-bodied be able to count on stable sources of income for their survival.

Uncertainties Affecting Grain Prices Viewed

MM2607075194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jul 94 Weekend Edition p 1

[Article by Andrey Kirillov: "Harvest Prospects: Bread Both Very Cheap and Very Dear"]

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[Text] Experts from the Russian Ministry of Agriculture have calculated that the price of a tonne of wheat from the new harvest will fluctuate between 200,000 and 220,000 rubles [R]. If this forecast is borne out, specialists from the Russian grain procurement agencies are convinced, the day will not be far off when a loaf of bread will cost R1,500. Meanwhile harvesting is in full swing, but we still do not know how much the new grain will cost.

Take Last Year's Million! [subhead]

Russia is a country of paradoxes. In a country that is one of the largest importers of grain there are millions of tonnes of last year's grain on the eve of the new harvest which are basically still untapped.... Why?

The Kuban harvest cannot be described as a record breaker, Vladimir Udachin, our correspondent in the kray, reports. The problem here is not the harvest itself but actual grain sales. The price of grain, to be more precise. How much will the state purchase it for? Will it pay up front? Where is the grain to be shipped to?

The situation on the grain market is very complex and unusual. What farmer used to think about selling his grain? Until quite recently the state strove and actually managed to rake in absolutely everything right down to the last grain of wheat from kolkhoz and sovkhoz barns with the exception of carefully husbanded forage grain stocks. It would often happen that during the very first days of the harvest grain trains would leave the Kuban's stations for Moscow and the Urals. And now? According to preliminary calculations the Kuban will grind approximately 5 million tonnes of grain. But there are still more than 1 million tonnes of last year's grain in the kray's elevators. At 120 rubles [R] a kilogram, there will be few takers for it.

For example, the "Kubankhleboprodukt" Joint-Stock Company is trying to persuade farmers to sell their grain now, without waiting for a price increase. But at the present time only 58,000 tonnes have been purchased at R120,000 a tonne. Whereas 1 million tonnes need to be purchased for the federal fund. This grain is lying on the threshing floors. The peasants are waiting for a new price. But what sort of price rise? Discussions about this are scheduled for the conference of south Russian farmers in Rostov.

Aleksandr Kolesnikov, first deputy general director of the kray's agriculture and food department, believes that R120-130 per kilogram is too little bearing in mind value-added tax [VAT]. In order to preserve an acceptable level of profitability the price should be R160-180 before VAT. Will the government agree to this? It is very doubtful.

Meanwhile, at the south Russian food exchange none of the buyers has responded to the suggestion that they buy wheat at R180,000-200,000 a tonne. Two major consignments of wheat for food purposes were sold for R127,000 and R130,000.

And That Groan Can Be Heard on the Volga

Vitaliy Cherkasov, our correspondent in the Volga Valley region, has sent us contradictory news: Bread prices in Volgograd increased just prior to the harvest. A 700-gram white loaf now costs R400, as much as a loaf made from fine-quality rye flour. Speaking on television on the day of this unhappy event, oblast governor Ivan Shabulin assured viewers that this step had been taken in the farmers' interests, using the purchase price to preserve the countryside from total ruin.

"Who nowadays will heed recommendations if laws are not implemented?" Nikolay Krivko, head of the oblast's Kotelnikovskiy Rayon administration, said in a fit of temper. "We need to look for buyers ourselves and artificially lower grain prices. It is most likely therefore that the assiduous farmer will husband his grain until next spring, when favorable economic conditions develop on the market. But God knows what we will use to pay for credits...."

It is curious that Kotelnikovskiy Rayon, which has not even begun harvesting, is prepared to meet a state order. And what is to be done with this year's harvest?

The inhabitants of Kotelnikovskiy Rayon are trying to foist their grain onto the first person who comes along, but nobody will pay R70-80 per kilogram for select durum wheat. So what is causing the price of your loaf and mine to spiral? The unfortunate peasant has no idea....

Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears

Even though we may have thought that the view from Moscow is clearer, it seems there are blank spots here as well. Comrades in high places are hesitating and arguing, unable to reach a common view of the harvest. The Ministry of Agriculture is issuing "recommended" prices of R200,000 per tonne of wheat before VAT and special taxes, whereas procurers are up in arms, saying that this price is totally unjustified, excessively inflated, and will lead to a sharp increase in the price of bread. We already have experience of "recommended" prices. The result is that the treasury still owes farmers R300 billion for last year's harvest. How can this be?

For the time being one thing is clear—something like 11 million tonnes of grain should come into the federal fund this year, and twice as much as this should be received by regional funds. For these requirements the regions have been allocated R800 billion from the state budget for July. However, it should be made clear that for the time being only "figures" have been allocated, no real money has yet been transferred between accounts. You can think what you like....

Right now the world price for a tonne of wheat is fluctuating within the $95-105 band. Therefore, presumably, the reason why the Ministry of Agriculture's calculations "are getting longer and longer" is the foreign exchange rate of the ruble. But it should be borne in

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mind that this $95-105 includes the price of treatment, shipment, and delivery of the grain. And the sum of R200,00-220,000 does not include VAT. Consequently, if new grain is bought at the recommended price, a loaf of bread really will cost R1,500.

Grain procurers hope that this will not happen. For the time being, thank God, prices remain at the market level, and in fact a tonne of wheat together with delivery costs comes to R115,000—half as much as the estimate price. But perhaps this is a result of artificial price lowering and strangulation of the farmers' interests? Statistics confirm that as of 1 January 1994 the average cost price of a tonne of wheat across Russia was R23,000. Last year the price of grain was R74,000-75,000 on average. So the profitability aspect is obvious.

...These are the torments which give birth to the price of a new harvest loaf. Its future is like that of the two-ended stick—you cannot tell which end will be used to beat the ordinary person buying his bread.

P.S. A tonne of wheat from this year's harvest will be purchased by the state depending on quality at a price of between R171,000 and R300,000. In this case a 1-kg loaf of bread will cost R1,500. Bread prices will increase smoothly as last year's grain reserves dwindle; the purchase price of this grain was considerably lower.

New purchase prices have been recommended in an agreement signed in Rostov-na-Donu.

Military Issues

Yeltsin Discusses Army Issues With S. Yushenkov

MM2607082994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "President Intends To Bring Order to Armed Forces Finances"]

[Text] Our correspondent has been informed by the assistant to the chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee that on 22 July Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin discussed with Sergey Yushenkov a range of issues affecting the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

In particular, the president advocated tightening financial discipline regarding defense items of the budget. The relevant remarks were relayed to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. It is well known what difficult times the Army is going through, now that it basically finds itself on "starvation rations." The president believes that the problem is perfectly capable of being resolved, among other things by the formation of the special fund for the Armed Forces' needs mentioned in Article 34 of the 1994 Federal Budget Law.

Sergey Yushenkov, who visited the Totsk training ground with a group of deputies, assured the president that the planned U.S.-Russian exercises are by no means being hampered by problems with the region's ecology but by the purely short-term considerations of certain political forces. Boris Yeltsin supported the deputy's position, namely that the decision to hold the exercises has been made and they should go ahead.

In order to ensure more active involvement of presidential structures in formulating military policy, it is planned to establish a special administration under the Russian Federation president for questions of defense policy and the affairs of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

Armed Forces Want Precision Weapons

LD2507181694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Participants in a discussion in the upper house of the Russian parliament came to the conclusion that Russia lags behind the West in the production of precision weapons, a parliamentary source said.

The Defense Ministry believes the reason for this is the priority that Russia's military industry has for a long time given to the production of nuclear ammunition, the source told Interfax.

First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin said during the discussion, held behind closed doors on Monday, that "Russia must today make tremendous efforts to overcome the lag and create precision weapons that use conventional ammunition."

Many speakers said with concern that Russian military hardware rapidly goes out of date. They cited data, according to which 70 percent of radars in Russia are old and, due to lack of funds, are being replaced extremely slowly. Of five nuclear submarines that were due to be commissioned over the past year only one has been put into service. Of the 12 intelligence satellites the space forces would like to have in orbit they are today in a position to launch only one. Production of tactical and antitank missiles has practically ceased.

Experts think that, by stopping the manufacture of many priority types of weapons, Russia may lose its technological standards and consequently be outstripped by nations in the military field.

Shirshov Warns Against Finance Cuts in Defense Complex

LD2507145594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Federation Council Security and Defense Committee, thinks that a cut in the financing of science in the defense complex will lead to the destruction of the leading schools of scientists and construction engineers.

Speaking today at a sitting of the committee, he warned of the danger of the end of the production not only of

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new types of weapons but also of civilian products. Moreover, according to Shirshov, a tense social situation is developing at military enterprises. He called upon the parliamentarians to deal with this problem as soon as possible.

Further on Shirshov Remarks

LD2507200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The 1995 Russian defense budget should be at least 80 trillion rubles, according to the head of the defense and security committee of the Federation Council Petr Shirshov. The 1994 defense budget approved by the Duma and Federation Council is 40.6 trillion. During the Monday hearings on the issue a Defense Ministry representative said 60 trillion would be an optimum sum for next year.

Shirshov was answering journalists' questions after the closed hearings which lasted for over six hours. In addition to members of the Federal Assembly they were attended by officials from the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, the Chief Intelligence Department as well as munitions plants and research centers.

Shirshov said a document summing up the hearings and containing a number of recommendations will be sent to the president and government. It suggests setting up a mixed body to coordinate the operation of government agencies related to the armed forces and defense industry.

The document urges the Ministry of Finance to pay its debts to the defense industry in the third quarter for produced goods. According to Shirshov, the ministry has assigned only 20% of the sum provided for by the budget.

Shirshov quoted speakers as saying that in keeping with presidential instructions 10

of the defense budget should be spent on research, design and testing. The official share is 7% while the actual spending is only 3.5 to 3.7%.

He said in August-September the Federation Council intends to invite representatives of the Finance Ministry to report on the implementation of the defense budget.

The Central Bank was invited to define the terms of crediting federal research and conversion programs.

Shirshov said the upper house of parliament would urge the Duma to draft and submit for approval to the Federation Council laws on government munitions orders, state companies, military test grounds, a government policy on military research, mobilization preparedness and the utilization of armaments and military hardware.

R60 Trillion Recommended for 1995 Defense Budget

LD2507181994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin spoke of the need for national accord on defence spending at a Monday closed parliamentary hearings in Moscow.

According to a well-informed source close to the Federation Council, a key figure in the Defence Ministry has suggested a defence budget for 1995 that would not undermine economic stability but let the ministry "stick its head out of the water". In Kokoshin's opinion the optimum defence spending next year should be 60 trillion rubles.

He said every effort should be bent to keep up key defence productions with an emphasis on double-purpose companies in the aerospace industry, shipbuilding and production of missiles.

Spending on new weaponry and machinery has been cut especially radically as well as on research and designing. Concrete figures were named at the hearings. Four trillion were to be spent on armaments in January through June 1994, but actually only a little over one trillion were earmarked.

Defence Ministry representatives told MPs that as much as 40% of the country's scientific and technical potential has been lost during the past three years due to inadequate financing.

Defense Ministry Civilian Personnel Receive Raise

MM2507151594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Petr Altunin under "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and Telegraph Agencies Report" rubric: "Wage Raise for Civilian Personnel"]

[Text] Russian Federation Defense Ministry—Russian Federation Defense Minister's Order No. 225 has been signed and, in accordance with the Russian Federation federal law of 30 June this year and the Russian Federation Government decree of 30 June this year, introduces from 1 July 1994 a minimum wage of 20,500 rubles [R] a month in Russian Federation Defense Ministry military units, institutions, military educational establishments, enterprises, and organizations which are funded on the basis of budget estimates. From 1 July 1994 the wage rate for the first category of the Unified Pay Scale applicable to civilian personnel in military units will be R22,400.

Thus, the wages of civilian personnel in the aforementioned employee categories are being increased by an average of 40 percent, and for low-paid employees (categories 1-4) this figure will be higher.

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Commander Lauds Border Troops' Economic Efficacy

MM2507104994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Can the Country Sleep Peacefully in its Bed? Russian Federation Border Troops Commander in Chief Believes that Russian Borders are Not Totally Secure"]

[Text] So Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev said at a press conference in reply to your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent's question. What are the reasons for this? Let us give just a few of them. The Russian Federation border is only two percent shorter than that of the USSR, yet Border Troops authorized strength has been cut by nearly one-third. And even then the troops are only 80 percent manned. Moreover, considerable manpower has to be kept in the most troublesome sectors—the Northwest Sector (the borders with the Baltic countries) and the Transcaucasus Sector. So the Russian Border Troops are simply physically incapable of being strong everywhere. As a result there are significant sectors of the border where security can only be described as nominal. According to the Russian Federation Border Troops commander in chief, they include primarily the "Azerbaijan corridor" and the Russian-Kazakhstani border, where interaction between border troops services exists only in theory.

The border guards have many problems also when it comes to funding. Of the 3.2 trillion rubles [R] requested by the Russian Federation Main Border Troops Commissariat for the upkeep of the troops the government and parliament saw fit to allocate only R2.2 trillion. And this despite the fact that, according to experts, border guards prevented damage to the state totaling R1 trillion during operation "Putina-94" ["Fishing Season-94"] alone. Taking into account the results of other operations carried out by the Federal Border Service this year—"Rubezh" ["Frontier"], "Zaslon" ["Barrier"], "Tral" ["Dragnet"], and "Inostranets" ["Foreigner"]—it would be entirely appropriate to talk about self-funding Border Troops.

Incidentally, the aforementioned operations could have been more effective if the border guards, aside from protecting the border, had not had to busy themselves equipping new sectors of the border, building housing, and other problems.

Federal Assembly

Duma Holds Hearings on Army Reform

MM2507145394 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 2

["Own Information" report: "The Army: Give Generals the Freedom and They Will Put Everyone Under Arms"]

[Text] Parliamentary hearings on the question of military reform in the Russian Federation [RF] were held 19 July on the initiative of the State Duma Defense Committee, chaired by Sergey Yushenkov.

Two main views of this problem appeared in the papers for the participants and in the course of the actual debate. The stance espoused by the Russian defense minister, which he has already set out in a report at the June conference at the Russian Armed Forces General Staff and a subsequent meeting with the Duma Defense Committee, was represented by Generals A. Kvashnin, V. Ostanin, P. Zhirin, and Yu. Radionov. It transpires that military reform is proceeding at full speed in line with the plan for the organizational development of the Armed Forces in 1995. A concept to cover the subsequent period will be submitted this November. At the same time it is intended to raise the number of contract enlisted men and NCO's by the year 2000 to 50 percent while reducing the proportion of contract personnel among officers. Defense Ministry personnel singled out two of the main problems—troop manning and housing construction—which they think can be solved by changing legislation, canceling draft deferrals, tightening up the norms of the draft law on alternative service, and also allocating additional state budget funds. The generals' position met with unexpectedly vigorous support from Deputy Loginov, a representative of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, who at the same time called for a "constitutional" change of power, in the process vesting the Armed Forces with "internal functions" and also "expropriating for the Army" apartments from people who illegally cross RF borders.

Another stance was put forward in V. Lopatin's speech and in the articles by him that NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA has published (16 March 1994 and 26 May 1994), as well as in the statements by Generals A. Vladimirov and G. Batanov and representatives of public organizations.

The most acute controversy revolved around the question of the size of the RF Armed Forces and staff structures and staffing methods. According to RF Defense Ministry data, with a prescribed strength of 2.1 million, the RF Armed Forces, not counting other forces, currently have 2,070 generals, 539,000 officers, 218,000 warrant officers, and over 700,000 enlisted men and NCO's, including 220,000 contract employees. However, according to a Defense Ministry spokesman, undermanning accounts for 614,000 men, primarily enlisted men and NCO's. By the end of 1994 it is planned to have RF Armed Forces with a regular strength of 1.9 million, with generals, officers, warrant officers, and NCO's and enlisted men representing 0.09 percent, 29 percent, 14 percent, and 57 percent respectively.

But if you recalculate these percentages bearing in mind the Army's real size, the ratio would be different, with two commanders per enlisted man. And if these figures persist there will be a shortage of enlisted men, according

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to Gen. G. Batanov, even if you put into service 100 percent of the 800,000 drafted guys annually who reach the age of 18 (which will never happen, since one-third are unfit on health grounds). Thus, all the Army's current problems whereby officers substitute for enlisted men, funds are dissipated, the prestige of army service is low, and the level of combat readiness does not meet the requirements of reliably protecting the Fatherland will persist. Despite this, the military department has once again suggested that "drafting citizens for military service with consideration for the territorial principle" be considered the "fundamental means of manning the Armed Forces." Other approaches to performing this task were also proposed during the hearings, namely that the number of generals be decided on the basis of the real size of the Armed Forces and not vice versa as happens today; that the number of combined formations and units be cut, using the released personnel to man other structures; that the number of military training establishments be reduced along with the recruitment of students and cadets; and that the decentralization of the Armed Forces be suspended and the size of other troops cut back.

The main argument against this approach was presented in statements made by the generals to the effect that "all the figures are wrong and biased"; that this is a very costly business and since there is no money this spells the "total collapse of the Armed Forces. However, concrete analysis revealed the unfounded, invalid nature of these statements.

Nor does the argument regarding the costly nature of a further transition to contract service hold water since there are already 1 million servicemen in the Russian Armed Forces today working on contract. It is necessary not to cut the number of contracts, but to effect the structural reduction of the Armed Forces, replacing "costlier contract personnel"—officers—with NCO's, enlisted men, and civilian personnel.

The current practice in military organizational development has exhausted its potential, does not accord with the provisions of the new Constitution, military doctrine, political objectives, or the state's economic potential, and fails to take into consideration world and Russian experience of military organizational development. A state body independent of the Defense Ministry with real authority as regards the preparation and implementation of military reform must be set up immediately in order to prepare for and really implement military reform.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Opposition Controls Argun, Cuts off Groznyy

LD2507211994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] According to unofficial information, at present an armed grouping of [Chechnya] opposition leader Ruslan Labazanov is in control of the strategically important town of Argun, which means that the capital Groznyy is cut off from the mountainous rayons of the republic. Incidentally, part of the Groznyy rayon is under Labazanov's control.

Another armed grouping of Beslan Gantemirov is controlling the Urus-Martanovskiy rayon. A further three rayons—Nadterechnyy, Shalinskiy and Vedenskiy rayons—are under the control of the Supreme Soviet in opposition.

Army Tank Unit No Longer Under Dudayev's Control

LD2607074994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0646 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—The Shalinskiy Tank Regiment, which is the main strike unit of the Chechnya armed forces, is no longer under the control of President Dzhokhar Dudayev. It has announced it will not hinder the opposition and the Provisional Council from coming to power in the republic and if necessary will support them, ITAR-TASS learned today from informed sources. According to these sources, the Chechen leader today controls only his Groznyy residence and the approaches to it, notwithstanding his statements that he is in full control of the situation in the republic.

According to information in the possession of ITAR-TASS, Chechen opposition leaders have appealed to the Russian leadership to recognize the Provisional Council, which is headed by Umar Avturkhanov (the head of Nadterechnyy district), as the sole legitimate authority in Chechnya for a transitional period until elections to republican and federal bodies. Informed sources say that the opposition leadership has also called on Russian President Boris Yeltsin to act as guarantor of restoration of the constitutional order, peace, and calm in Chechnya.

According to Vyacheslav Kostikov, his press secretary, the head of state is carefully studying information on the development of events in Chechnya and hopes that sound forces will actively unite and be able to extricate that republic from its severe economic and political crisis and also uphold citizens' rights to a peaceful life and labor. The Russian president's press secretary sent this statement to ITAR-TASS in connection with the large number of appeals, letters, and telegrams being sent from Chechnya to Boris Yeltsin and his administration, testifying to widespread violations in the republic of human rights, and armed clashes that frequently lead to civilian casualties.

CHECHENPRESS Denies Shalinskiy Regiment's Reported Mutiny

LD2607103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The CHECHENPRESS news agency refuted on Tuesday reports that the Shalinskiy tank regime, the main striking force of the Chechen army, sided with the opposition.

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"Regiment Commander Isa Dalkhayev and Chief of the Staff Saimi Borshchigov flatly refuted these rumours and reaffirmed that they guard and will guard the interests of the Chechen state and are fully subordinated to Commander-in-Chief and President Dzhokhar Dudayev," the agency reported.

At the same time, reliable sources told ITAR-TASS earlier on Tuesday that the Shalinskiy tank regiment mutinied against Dudayev and would not prevent the opposition from taking power in the republic and will support it, if need be.

Chechen President Makes Administrative Changes

LD2207171894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1422 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Groznyy, 22 Jul (ITAR-TASS)—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has made a number of changes to his administration. Today, an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from well-informed sources that Khuseyn Ferzauli has been appointed vice premier, Ayub Satuyev, former deputy head of the State Security Department, has been appointed minister of foreign affairs. Usman Imayav, former chairman of the National Bank Directorate, has become procurator general, and his place at the bank has been occupied by Nazhmudi Uvaysayava.

At the same time, by decision of the Chechen leader, the head of the department for combating organized crime and the procurators of several rayons, who, according to local observers support the opposition, have been dismissed.

It is not ruled out that the changes made in the leadership of the power structures of this north Caucasian republic by Dudayev are one reason for the routine armed confrontation between the opposition groupings and government forces. Reports on this appeared in the mass media on Wednesday but were denied by official Groznyy.

Chechenya's Avturkhanov Reportedly Holds Moscow Talks

LD2507150294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Chechen opposition leader Umar Avturkhanov, the chairman of that republic's Interim Council, met with Russian Presidential Administration Chief Sergey Filatov in Moscow Sunday.

As a spokesman for the opposition headquarters reported to Interfax, various aspects of Russian-Chechen relations and their prospects were discussed.

Avturkhanov's aides believe the main importance of these official contacts is the recognition by the Russian side of the Interim Council's authority and assent to hold negotiations with it.

So far Interfax has not received any confirmation of this report from Kremlin sources.

Meanwhile, unofficial sources in Chechnya said Ruslan Labazanov's armed group has taken control of the strategic town of Argun, having thereby cut off the capital Groznyy from the republic's mountain regions. Part of Groznyy District is under his control too.

Another armed group, that of Bislan Gantemirov, controls Urus- Martan District and maintains neutrality in the conflict between Labazanov and President Johar Dudayev.

The opposition Provisional Council controls Nadterechnaya, Shali and Vvedensky Districts.

According to unconfirmed reports, most military units in the republic, including the Shali Tank Regiment, said they would stay neutral in the conflict, so Dudayev can only depend on an OMON (riot police) battalion stationed in Groznyy. He is also supported by the population of his native district.

Leningrad Oblast Seeks Solutions to Nonpayments

MM2507144794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Pavlov, first deputy chairman of the Leningrad Oblast Government: "And If the Tax Burden Were Alleviated?"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—We are trying to reduce the nonpayments problem on the basis of the experience of the Voronezh administration, where finished products are accounted as payments into the oblast budget.

Regional tax policy is another instrument by means of which we are overcoming the crisis phenomena. A law on tax concessions to enterprises and organizations in Leningrad Oblast was passed one month ago. The crux of it is that enterprises, including those with foreign capital involvement, which are be newly set up in the sphere of material production receive preferential treatment for the first three years after they start selling their goods or services. The tax burden on them is halved.

At the present time a new statute on the taxation of existing enterprises is being drawn up.

Thus certain signs of the economy's stabilization are already discernible.

But the solution of economic problems in the oblast is often hampered by the inefficiency of the statistical services, which are still using old methods. The oblast government has allocated 377.5 million rubles to develop a computerized statistical support system for regional organs of management. However, the creation of a modern statistical service in each individual oblast will not solve the problem. Measures at a federal level are needed here.

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Reservoirs Around Chelyabinsk-65 Highly Radioactive

LD2507174594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Bakina]

[Text] Moscow July 25 TASS—The concentration of radioneuclides in the reservoirs around the closed city of Chelyabinsk-65 exceeds the acceptable norms by several thousand times, according to the results of a study made by the Russian Atomic Ministry. Chelyabinsk-65 was a secret city devoted to the defence industry, where a TNT (non-nuclear) explosion in 1957 damaged a container of radioactive materials.

According to Stanislav Malyshev, deputy director of the Fourth Research Department of the Ministry for Nuclear Power Engineering, polluted territory around the Mayak production plant in Chelyabinsk- 65 has long been a "headache" for the ministry. Besides the deplorable state of the reservoirs, experts are mostly worried about Lake Karachay, which has received radioactive wastes measuring 120 million cure. The frequent sandstorms in the area make the matter worse by carrying radiation from the water's surface to areas far from the lake.

The Atomic Ministry's experts' top priority now is to close down the reservoirs and get rid of the danger. The ministry has been implementing a special programme aimed at "closing" the Karachay for several years now, but it is not easy. The whole territory of the lake should be covered with u-shaped blocks so that the radioactive silt stays at the bottom, and the water should be filled in with gravel.

One-third of the work has been completed so far. For the rest of the work, the ministry needs more money, which is, predictably, not forthcoming. The nuclear scientists are astonished by the government's relative calm when the radioactive water from the lake is already leaking into subterranean sources. The quickest intervention is needed. This month Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an order assigning Mayak 11.4 billion roubles, but that is only a small amount of the required sum.

Spacecraft Plant Converts To Bus Assembly Work

MM2507151394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Belikov: "Ikarusz' for Muscovites Instead of Buran"]

[Text] It seems that the Moscow Government has solved one of the most acute urban problems by adopting on 19 July the decision to organize production of large buses (the so-called articulated Ikarusz-280) at the Tushino Machine Building Plant Joint-Stock Company.

Most Muscovites know little about the space firm in Tushino, yet its products have always been world-famous. There were wartime fighters, supersonic combat aircraft in the fifties and sixties, and, finally, the pinnacle of Russian space science—the Buran orbital aircraft (its official name!) which, sadly, failed to realize its potential. As is well known, this wonderful machine is now good only as an attraction at Gorkiy Park—but that is not its developers' fault.

The products that the firm now plans to make as part of its conversion program are as well-known and popular as Buran, but far more useful. The capital alone requires no fewer than 1,000 large new Ikarusz buses a year. Muscovites are used to them, and everything needed for their operation is already in place—from bus depots to trained drivers, from overhaul facilities to existing route schedules. The only thing lacking is the foreign exchange to buy them from the Budapest enterprise, even though we own 40 percent of its shares. Incidentally, the shareholding indirectly stood us in good stead when talks were begun with the Hungarians on setting up joint production of buses and distributing shareholdings among the sponsors.

The current breakdown is as follows: The Moscow City Government has 12 percent of the incorporation capital, supplying 1.5 billion rubles; the "Avtoeksport" All-Union Joint-Stock Company and the Tushino Machine Building Plant Joint-Stock Company have 20 percent each; and the Hungarian partners (the Ikarusz Joint-Stock Company and "Kravteks" [name as transliterated] KFT [expansion unknown] have 24 percent each. Moreover, the Moscow City Transport administration is concluding an annual contract with the joint-venture manufacturer guaranteeing that the capital will buy all the vehicles it produces.

This year this will mean around 200 vehicles assembled from components and units supplied from the banks of the Danube. As of the middle of next year Russian components suppliers (there will be around 30 plants in all) and several CIS enterprises will gradually get involved. Production of the Tushino Ikarusz will have reached 500 a year by 1995. Each will cost $91,000 initially, falling to $78,700 in three years' time, once series production is fully up and running and the transition has been made to Russian components—ranging from environmentally friendly diesel motors from the Altay to seats from Yakhroma.

"In the near future," S. Arutyunov, general director of the Tushino Machine Building Plant Joint-Stock Company, told me, "we will be developing our own large-capacity standardized urban bus and trolleybus. Our designers and technologists are entirely capable of coping with this task, and the plant is capable of organizing mass production of them. Elderly Muscovites will probably still recall the first postwar so-called 'streamlined' streetcars and trolleybuses. They also came out of Tushino—from our enterprise, which produced them under a conversion program in the forties."

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Altay Kray Chief on Debt, Need for Financial Aid

MM2507105194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Lev Korshunov, head of administration of Altay Kray: "Time To Repay Debts"]

[Text] Barnaul—I would like to remind you of the funds earmarked for equalizing the socioeconomic conditions of the regions that the federal authorities owe Altay Kray. This debt means today the late payment of salaries to medical workers, teachers, and many other workers in the social sphere.

To utilize its agro-industrial potential the kray has drawn up a targeted program to revive agriculture, a program which needs minimum government financial support. We guarantee a high return on every ruble allocated us in terms of grain and foodstuffs for Siberia and other regions of the country.

Altay feels a very acute need today for state regulation of railroad and energy charges, the present level of which is paralyzing production.

It is essential to resolve a whole set of economic questions with government assistance in the city of Rubtsovsk, which has a major tractor and agricultural machine building complex and finds itself in a very difficult position because of agricultural enterprises' insolvency.

It is time for the government to solve without delay the problem of reciprocal debts between enterprises in different sectors, failing which we cannot count on the revival and upsurge of production.

Maritime Kray's Development Program Summarized

MM2507131394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Maritime Kray Administration Head Yevgeniy Nazdratenko: "Not Seeking a Prophet in a Strange Land"]

[Text] Vladivostok—In conjunction with the Russian Government, the Maritime Kray Administration has drawn up a program for the kray's development. Its main point is to enhance the kray's role in the Asia-Pacific Region within the framework of preserving a unified Russia. We are proposing that the Council of Ministers give us at least two or three years of favorable tax and investment policy in the oblast to allow us to get on our feet. Then we would be able to live without any support from the center. This year the government has resolved for us the problem of energy prices, as a result of which it has been possible to avoid mass bankruptcies and unemployment. After all, there is no getting away from the specifics of our economy. For instance, last winter whole residential areas had to have their power cut off in order to ensure production at the "Zvezda" Plant in Bolshoy Kamen—where nuclear submarines are overhauled—and prevent a Chernobyl-style tragedy.

The specifics of the economy also determined the main priorities for the kray administration. These are social issues—we have allocated 13 billion rubles to support the poor and children, and we have been concerned to ensure that the summer vacation season goes well for the young people of Maritime Kray.

Russia could get out of the prolonged crisis if the government takes account in its strategy of world experience in reforming society, seeing it in its totality rather than following some individual model. And, at any rate, there should be profoundly differentiated approaches for each region of our vast country. The people of the Far East are unanimously of the view that in the second half of the year it will finally be necessary to introduce a unified tariff for electricity, while tariffs for transport shipments should take our isolation into account. Incidentally, this was something of which czarist Russia was perfectly well aware. Back then things were simple—the further you were from Moscow, the cheaper shipments were....

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International Affairs

Kuchma Views Reforms, Relations With Germany

AU2507112294 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Jul 94 pp 122-124

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by Fritjof Meyer and Martina Helmerich; place and date not given: "This Is Really a Loony Bin Here"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Leonid Danilovich, why did you win the presidential elections?

[Kuchma] The people were fed up with the previous policy. Building a state on the basis of nationalism—this idea is dead. Almost 90 percent of the people live below subsistence level. They have no hope, they do not see any light at the end of the tunnel.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the election campaign the impression was given that you want to bring Ukraine back into the arms of Mother Russia.

[Kuchma] I did not even imply such a thing. I just spoke of partnership with Russia, just as Germany wants it. After all, Russia is a large market, our neighbor, our traditional supplier of raw materials.

[DER SPIEGEL] If one looks at the election results, you are not the president of western Ukraine. In Lvov 90 percent of the voters voted for your competitor Kravchuk. What will you do to overcome this difference between west and east?

[Kuchma] I am not the president of some region but of the entire country. The difference is not one in geography but one concerning the political position. I really do not want to have anything to do with people who consider only their own ideology as valid. We saw in the past where something like that leads to.

[DER SPIEGEL] You once were a member of the Soviet elite. When did you realize that the Soviet system had become outdated?

[Kuchma] During my first trip abroad, to Italy...

[DER SPIEGEL] ...there you saw that one can also live differently.

[Kuchma] Apart from that, what does elite mean? For me it meant to work day and night, also on Saturdays and Sundays, and to be recalled from my vacations after a week.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Ukraine has the potential to become a big European power, if it uses it correctly.

[Kuchma] Ukraine's entering the international market resulted in Russia's raising its energy prices for us several thousand times over! However, the goods that we produce are not competitive enough to catch up.

[DER SPIEGEL] Now you are calling for a unified economic area with Russia?

[Kuchma] Above all, we want to have a common market with Germany, but that is, unfortunately, not possible.

[DER SPIEGEL] Not yet. Ukraine is a rich country with raw materials, industry, and a strong agriculture.

[Kuchma] But we need know-how and technology, and we can get that only from the West. I am advocating partnership with Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus, but not at the cost of our relations with Germany. Russia is elbowing its way into the club of the seven large industrial states. I do not want to stand on the sidelines.

[DER SPIEGEL] The G-7 states have offered $4 billion to Ukraine, which you can get if you pursue a sensible reform policy. What is your program?

[Kuchma] One in three companies in our country must be closed down or converted, that is clear. However, at the same time we must have financial resources available to provide social safeguards to the dismissed workers—after all, we cannot throw the people out on the streets; otherwise, they are going to throw me out.

[DER SPIEGEL] What do you think of private ownership of producer goods?

[Kuchma] Without that progress is impossible.

[DER SPIEGEL] Also in agriculture?

[Kuchma] House and garden should be private property, arable land should be leased for 99 years. We must keep the farmers' point of view in mind, we must act cautiously and gather experience.

[DER SPIEGEL] And in industry?

[Kuchma] Privatization of up to 100 percent if you like. Foreign companies, too, can hold a share of 100 percent. I have just told that to the people from Siemens: I want to see them here not just as salesmen but as the producers of goods. When I travel through the country in half a year, I also want to see factories, that belong exclusively to foreign investors.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does privatization also apply to armament companies?

[Kuchma] We do not need such a large production of armaments, as we have. It comprises one-third of our industry.

[DER SPIEGEL] And that is said by the world's most successful producer of rockets.

[Kuchma] Yes, I produced rockets for space, but now I have both feet on the ground. We no longer need nuclear weapons. But there is also civilian space flight. The rockets from my factory Yushmash are recognized as the best in the world.

[DER SPIEGEL] Today, Yushmash is also producing trolley buses.

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[Kuchma] When I was director there, I worked on developing such a thing for nine months. This was a bitter pill—it meant producing cooking pots, so to speak, with our top technology. But the people need something to eat.

[DER SPIEGEL] The conversion to civilian production is not really successful?

[Kuchma] The best minds and most skillful hands are working in armament production. Now they are leaving us. With a budget deficit of 37 percent we can no longer finance military production. But if we close down the companies, the staff takes to the streets and rebels.

[DER SPIEGEL] Western investments are supposed to close the gap. Cheaper labor in Ukraine is your chance.

[Kuchma] I am willing to open all doors and to amend all laws that are an impediment. If we continue to waste time, we will follow Yugoslavia's path. We have nuclear power plants and mountains of weapons. When I think of that, I get sick. All of Ukraine is a powder-keg.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, in Ukraine there are not such ethnic conflicts as in the former Yugoslavia.

[Kuchma] Nevertheless, my opponent Leonid Kravchuk used the argument of an alleged Ukraine-Russian contradiction, for which he should actually be taken to task. He insinuated that I want to lead Ukraine back to Russia. His slogan was: Anyone who votes for Kravchuk votes for peace, Kuchma means war—even though it was he who led the country into a crisis, which no longer rules out a war.

[DER SPIEGEL] This sounds very somber.

[Kuchma] Autumn will be here soon, the harvest will be bad, pockets are empty. We owe the Russians more than $1 billion for natural gas.

[DER SPIEGEL] What is going to happen?

[Kuchma] There must not be a revolution. There is only one alternative: Either we will make it with the help of the West, or we will collapse like a house of cards, and several regions will secede from our state. I know the mood in the Donbass region, where the miners have not received their wages for three months.

[DER SPIEGEL] Are you not starting to contradict parliament as a result of your reform policy? The leader of the strongest group, the Communists, is calling for an economy controlled by the state.

[Kuchma] The Communists, too, are moving toward the center of the political range. They, too, know that a return is no longer possible. My problems with the leftists are no greater than with the radical nationalists, who see only room for Ukrainians in Ukraine. We must follow the civilized path on the basis of the constitution. However, I will not permit my fate to be the same as it was as prime minister: Having to account for one's actions to Parliament every day. At that time I was tricked.

[DER SPIEGEL] During the first days after your election victory you gave the impression that the office of president is rather a burden than a joy to you. Are you now beginning to like it?

[Kuchma] No, I will never like it.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you are not a man who prefers to retreat to his dacha and play the guitar.

[Kuchma] The office of president here is not as comfortable as in your country or in France. My path is riddled with many time-bombs, which may still explode. Kravchuk has given many gifts to the voters, which first must be paid, such as far too high prices for state purchases of grain. However, we will perhaps have the worst harvest ever.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will Ukraine again have to import grain?

[Kuchma] We might be 2 million tonnes short, but we also lack the dollars for imports. This is really a loony bin here.

[DER SPIEGEL] How do you intend to enforce reforms in the administrative apparatus? Often, the local functionaries just want to milk the Western capitalists. One example: A German investor is looking for premises for a tobacco factory in Kiev, but the city administration cannot find one. State trade organizations do not pay their bills or have the gas switched off for the factory. Protection money is demanded of the investor, officials want to be bribed.

[Kuchma] The power currently rests with the local authorities because of the law on local self-administration. Nevertheless, I say: Please, come, invest in industry, metallurgy, consumer goods production. Do something for stability in Europe.

[DER SPIEGEL] Leonid Danilovich, you have already gotten to know the Germans a bit; as a child you saw the German occupation.

[Kuchma] They were very friendly when they came, and gave us sweets. When they retreated, they burned down our village, and we had to flee into the woods.

[DER SPIEGEL] You have visited the FRG three times.

[Kuchma] As director general of Yushmash I even attended a management course in western Germany for four weeks.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are your impressions of the Germans?

[Kuchma] The best. We understood each other very well. Our people are just like yours, they can work just as well. It was the system that hindered us, and now things have

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gotten even worse. We lack, above all, economic and administrative cadres. Most of the time the capable people went to Moscow, where everything was decided.

[DER SPIEGEL] What do you think, when will your country have achieved the position that it deserves?

[Kuchma] If some big countries form the West come to our market, I will be confident: The process is under way, as Mikhail Gorbachev used to say.

[DER SPIEGEL] Now Gorbachev is expecting the reunification of the fraternal Slav peoples under new conditions with the help of President Kuchma.

[Kuchma] Here Gorbachev is wrong. Ukraine will remain independent. However, it is a fact: Russia is still turning two taps, one for oil and one for natural gas. It turns them on or off, and thus puts pressure on 52 million people in Ukraine. Our debts to Russia have risen to $5.5 billion.

[DER SPIEGEL] Russia is still treating you as the little brother?

[Kuchma] I will tell you a story about that: A Russian and an Uzbek once met in the desert and wanted to share their supply of water. As if they were brothers, the Russian suggested. The Uzbek fell to his knees and begged: Please, no, let us share in equal parts.

[DER SPIEGEL] Leonid Danilovich, thank you for this interview.

Moroz Criticizes Western Demands for Nuclear Disarmament

AU2507112094 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Olena Hubina: "The West Is 'Obsessed' With Ukraine's Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] Deputies of the former Supreme Council have assimilated well the truth that it is best to study the legislative experience of foreign countries while on trips abroad. However, this had very little effect upon fostering Ukraine's prestige. According to Supreme Council Deputy Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine still remains a "blank space" for many states. That is why our speaker proposes certain changes. Namely, to intensify the new parliament's influence upon external policy. First and foremost, through intensifying the activity in the international arena and pursuing the policy of active neutrality. Also, by considerably increasing the number of trips by parliamentary delegations.

During the period of transferring power from the first to the second Ukrainian president, Western politicians, businessmen, and journalists are particularly worried by two issues: Whether our state finally joins the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and whether it will not lose the possibility to obtain the promised $4 billion that the G-7 countries offered to allocate for conducting reforms. Oleksandr Moroz believes that the West is somewhat "obsessed" with Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. However, at the same time, he proposes that a spade should be called a spade. Of the $350 million that the United States promised at the beginning of the year, only $11 million was used by various structures. How long does the world community need to twist the arms of a single state without doing anything concrete for it?

Today, Ukraine has no money for withdrawing nuclear missiles. It even looks like this process may be halted through legislation. That is why Oleksandr Moroz proposes that Western politicians ponder on what is more advantageous—to dismantle such missiles or to take them into pieces here, after they explode.

In Naples, the G-7 countries promised our state $4 billion as assistance for implementing reforms. However, this is an abstract notion. A number of changes are already under way in Ukraine. Regarding the privatization and liberalization of the economy, it is impossible to accomplish them in just one year. At any rate, there are no such examples in the world. Ukraine, encouraged by the West, is still actively destroying its old system. Does the world community need to see it impoverished and starving before it is allowed to join in? In such a case, the declared assistance will obviously come too late. Besides, why should all actions be unilateral?

One of the negative external political actions, which marked the recent past of the independent state, is, according to Moroz, the withdrawal of tactical weapons from the territory of Ukraine. In the very near future, a delegation of the Ukrainian parliament is going to visit Russia and the United States.

National Affairs

Moroz on Probable 'Radical Decisions' on Crimea

LD2507161694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev—The plenary sitting of the Ukrainian Supreme Council on 25 July began with one minute of silence to honor the memory of a deputy from Kherson oblast, the late Oleksandr Romanyuk.

During the discussion of the agenda for the period until 1 August, the deputies voted to include in it the issue of the 21 July decree of President Leonid Kuchma on "Urgent Measures to Step up the Fight against Crime" (in particular in response to a proposal from deputy Serhiy Holovatyy). In the words of Serhiy Holovatyy, this decree violates current laws on the armed forces of Ukraine and on the procuracy, and certain of its clauses exceed the president's authority. Serhiy Holovatyy considers that by introducing preventive detention of citizens for 30 days, this decree contravenes Article Nine of the international convention on civil and political rights and Article Five of the European convention on human rights.

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Oleksandr Moroz noted that this document interferes in Ukraine's legislative and constitutional arena. Three commissions—for issues of legal policy and judicial and legal reform, for human rights, national minorities, and interethnic relations, and for legal affairs and law and order—have been instructed to prepare an analysis of this document and to submit it to the Supreme Council.

It is also expected that the law "On Citizenship," which was approved by the parliament of Crimea, will be reviewed in the next few days. In the view of Oleksandr Moroz, the talks between the parliamentary working groups of Ukraine and Crimea are not going smoothly and it will probably be necessary to adopt radical decisions.

An examination of the draft law, prepared by the Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Social Policy and Labor "On Limits for the Badly-off" and on introducing changes and additions to the minimum consumer budget is planned for 28 July. This week deputies also intend to examine the issue of an editor for the HOLOS UKRAYINY parliamentary newspaper.

Deputies began to discuss the draft procedure for the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Delegations Sign Protocol on Ukrainian-Crimean Relations

LD2607091494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1950 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—In the opinion of Oleksiy Melnykov, the Crimean Supreme Council's deputy chairman, the talks between the delegates of the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments that were held between 21-22 July were positive. "They did not allow the Crimean card to be played during the election campaign."

As Melnykov informed journalists and a group of Crimean deputies on 25 July, the delegations signed a protocol in two parts. The first part, which was drafted by the Ukrainian delegation, proposes that the Crimean side make changes to Articles 1, 7, 10, and 17 of Crimea's Constitution. These articles refer to the Republic's statute, dual citizenship, and contractual relations between Crimea and Ukraine.

Members of the Crimean delegation did not agree to this issue being put in such a way and refused to accept the proposed clarifications. This was noted in the second part of the protocol. A concept of contractual relations between Crimea and Ukraine was also proposed.

In the words of Melnykov, "The position of the Ukrainian side has not changed in two years." However, he added, "Some understanding had appeared in the Ukrainian delegation following the election of Leonid Kuchma as president of Ukraine. Representatives of Ukraine's Supreme Council are refraining from making nationalistic remarks, and all nationalists have been removed from the delegation."

At the end of last week, Volodymyr Stretovych, leader of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, told a UNIAN correspondent that no changes had been made to the delegation. In his words, "Crimea had proposed to change Ukraine's state system."

At a plenary meeting of Ukraine's Supreme Council on 25 July, Chairman Oleksandr Moroz noted that the talks between the parliaments of Ukraine and Crimea were difficult, and radical measures might possibly have to be adopted because of this.

New Council To Oversee Crimean TV, Radio Broadcasts

LD2607084294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1950 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The presidium of Crimea's parliament has decided to create a republican television and radio council in order to carry out supervision over TV Simferopol. A meeting of the presidium of the Republic of Crimea on 25 July discussed provisions regarding the Republic of Crimea's television and radio broadcasting. As Mykhaylo Bakharyev, chairman of the standing commission for the mass media, said, "Even though we have the power, television and radio broadcasting is not ours; it is in other people's hands." In order to supervise television and radio broadcasting, it was decided to create a republican council for radio and television broadcasting. It was proposed that six persons be included in it. Three will represent the government, and the other three will represent the Supreme Council. President Yuriy Meshkov proposed that the Crimean parliament should confirm the chairman of the council on his recommendation.

It is expected that Anatoliy Syvachenko, who was head of the local television and radio company in 1992, will be proposed for the post of council chairman. The members of the presidium believe that it is precisely through the chairman of the council and his deputy that the Supreme Council of Crimea will be able to control the peninsula's television and radio broadcasts.

It is proposed to dissolve the current television and radio company and then to reemploy the staff. The presidium members believe that television in Crimea should without fail broadcast "Ostankino" and "Rossiya" programs fully and, "if Ukraine wishes to broadcast its programs, then it should pay for them." However, the assets of the "Crimea" television and radio company should be transferred to the Republic's ownership.

The issue of financing has yet to be decided. In the first six months, this television and radio company's expenditures were 16 billion karbovantsi. However, Bakharyev thinks that they will be far less, because it will be impossible to maintain such a large staff.

It is proposed that the issue that is being discussed today at a meeting of Crimea's Supreme Council presidium be

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submitted for the plenary sitting of the first session, which will continue its work on 27 July.

President Issues Edict on Combating Crime

AU2507155494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 July 94 p 8

[Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Urgent Measures for Intensifying the Struggle Against Crime," issued in Kiev on 21 July]

[Text] In connection with the extremely complicated crime-breeding situation in Ukraine and to ensure the protection of the constitutional rights, freedoms, lives, health, and property of citizens, the strengthening of law and order as the most essential condition for the normal functioning of society and the state, and in conformity with Item 1 of Article 114-5 of the Ukrainian Constitution, I resolve as follows:

1. Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's State Customs Committee, the State Committee for the Defense of Ukraine's State Borders, Ukraine's National Guard, the Government of the Crimean Republic, and local self-government executive bodies, with the participation of Ukraine's Procurator General's Office must systematically implement coordinated measures aimed at decisively intensifying the struggle against gangsterism, corruption, and other types of serious crime. Particular attention must be given to neutralizing those armed criminal groups of an interregional and international nature, which use explosive substances and devices and which terrorize the population.

For carrying out operations to neutralize gangster and other criminal groups, a more active use must be made of special subunits of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Security Service, and Ukraine's National Guard, as well as the technological means of Ukraine's Armed Forces and of other military formations.

To enlist the services of the personnel of the internal and escort guard troops, cadets, students of educational institutions of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, and also Ukraine's Armed Forces servicemen in places of deployment of military units in order to ensure law and order in public places and the protection of the rights, freedoms, legitimate interests, lives, and health of citizens.

2. The Government of the Crimean Republic and local self-government executive bodies, with the participation of law enforcement agencies, must specify those populated areas and localities on whose territory gangsterism and other types of serious crime are becoming increasingly common and keep the development of the situation under their special control.

Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ukraine's Security Service, as well as their structures in the provinces, must use their personnel intensively in operational work involving special operations aimed at combating gangsterism, racketeering, hostage taking, and other types of serious crime. Additional mobile groups of law enforcement agencies and servicemen must also be used for the purpose; the number of patrols must be increased, especially in the evening and at night, and corresponding technical means must be provided.

To consider combating crime against the individual, economic crime, in particular in the credits and finance and banking systems, in external economic activity and trade, and on transportation, as main trends in the activity of law-enforcement agencies.

3. Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Security Service, and Ukraine's National Guard, if they have at their disposal reliable information on the meeting places of criminals, drug addicts, or people engaged in illegal activities, must urgently conduct special operations for detaining and searching suspects and must take measures regarding them in conformity with Ukraine's legislation.

To carry out systematic purpose-oriented inspections of hostels, hotels, railroad stations, ports, market places, and other places frequented by such people, who arrive from foreign states, in order to reveal those who stay on the territory of Ukraine in violation of the established order, and to resolve questions of their further stay in Ukraine.

4. Proceeding from the need to take urgent and radical measures to prevent criminal activities and overcome crime, first and foremost in its violent and organized forms, before Ukraine's Supreme Council passes the corresponding law, to allow internal affairs bodies and Ukraine's Security Service to resort, as an exception and on approval by the Procurator's Office, to preventive detention of up to 30 days of those people, regarding whom trustworthy evidence is available on their participation in planning or committing acts of gangsterism, terrorism, extortion, or other types of serious crime.

Those detained have the right to defend themselves and protest against the actions of the law-enforcement agencies in accordance with the procedure provided for by the law.

The law-enforcement agencies must be authorized, in case of need, as envisaged by legislation, to familiarize themselves urgently with and confiscate, if necessary, documents and materials that are important for detecting or preventing crime, from enterprises, institutions, and organizations under all forms of ownership.

5. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, with the participation of the Government of the Crimean Republic and local self-government executive bodies must discuss, by 15 August 1994, the fulfillment of the State Program for

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Combating Crime and take the necessary measures for eliminating those causes and conditions that have a negative influence upon its fulfillment:

- To ensure timely and adequate financing of the State Program for Combating Crime, the allocation of funds to encourage those officers of law enforcement agencies and representatives of the public who have excelled in detecting and neutralizing criminal groups and in detaining criminals;
- To resolve, within one month, the question of allocating funds for the procurement of the modern technological means and equipment with them of law enforcement agencies and, first and foremost, special subunits for combating organized crime;
- To expedite the preparation of and handing over to the Supreme Council of draft laws on intensifying criminal responsibility for committing serious crimes against the lives, health, and property of citizens and, first and foremost, attempts upon the life of officers of law-enforcement agencies and those who take part in the protection of public order.

6. To determine that 50 percent of the cost of those material values, including hard-currency capital, that have been confiscated, in accordance with the resolutions by internal affairs bodies in cases involving administrative violations of law and in accordance with sentences and decisions passed by the courts (excluding those sums that are returned on appeal and in accordance with court decisions), will be used for the development of the material and technological base and for the encouragement of officers of law enforcement agencies.

7. Heads of ministries and other central bodies of state power, enterprises, institutions, and organizations under all forms of ownership must ensure proper order in registering and storing material values, the safe keeping of weapons, munitions, explosive substances and devices, toxic and radioactive substances, and materials and narcotics.

8. The Government of the Crimean Republic, chairmen of local councils of people's deputies, in carrying out the functions of the state executive power that have been delegated to them, must ensure constant coordination of the activity of law enforcement and other related state bodies and public organizations in the fulfillment of the requirements listed in the given edict and must strengthen law and order in those territories that have been subordinated to them.

9. To recommend that Ukraine's Procurator General's Office establish strict supervision over the adherence to the demands of the present edict.

10. Heads of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's State Customs Committee, the State Committee for the Defense of Ukraine's State Borders, and Ukraine's National Guard must, at least once a month, personally report to Ukraine's president on the fulfillment of the present edict.

11. To ask Ukraine's Supreme Council to pass, in the shortest possible period of time, laws on the preventive detention of people, on the struggle against corruption, the responsibility for laundering illicit profits, the prevention of crime, and measures to intensify the struggle against the illegal circulation of narcotic substances.

12. This edict becomes effective on the day of its publication in the mass media.

[signed] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma

Kiev, 21 July 1994

Kuchma on Impending Crop Failure

LD2507173194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 25 Jul 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Ukraine's new leadership is not nursing any pLans to re-unite with Russia or re-join the ruble zone, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma stated in Kiev on Sunday after repeat elections to the Ukrainian parliament.

"We are building a state of our own and are ready to cooperate with Russia in the interests of the two peoples," he said.

He also said that a Ukrainian-Russian treaty on cooperation was being drafted. Russia remains the only CIS country, he said, with which Ukraine has not concluded such a treaty. He expressed hope that Russian President Boris Yeltsin would visit Ukraine after the draft is finalized.

Commenting on the Crimean parliament's decision to introduce dual citizenship in Crimea, he expressed categorical opposition to the idea, saying: "We are a single state." (INTERFAX Note: In observers' opinion, Kuchma's categorical statement that a new full-scale political alliance with Russia is impossible, is broadening opportunities for his constructive dialogue with the national-patriotic section of the opposition, above all with the western Ukrainian political parties and public organizations, alarmed by individual parts in Kuchma's inauguration speech. He said, for instance, that he was planning to grant the Russian language an official status and ensure Ukraine's membership in the pro-Russian Eurasian bloc. On the other hand, Kuchma's tough stance on dual citizenship in Crimea will disappoint Crimea, whose voters gave Kuchma almost unanimous support during the recent elections.)

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Earlier, Kuchma had stated in Dnepropetrovsk that the time had come to pass from declarations about state development to action that would offer people a better life.

He also said that the authorities had already started to restore order and combat crime and corruption, including corruption in the upper echelons of power. To attain this goal at least three things are needed, he said: The political will of the leadership, competence and honesty of the people who are implementing the reforms and, most important, understanding and support of the people.

He described the economic situation in Ukraine as depressing, saying that "for the first time over the past five years, the country is in for a crop failure," and that the recent populist moves had prepared a powerful inflation and price explosion.

He said that he had never promised and would never promise to put an immediate end to all the problems facing Ukraine or to ensure its instant prosperity. In his estimate, ahead was a dramatic autumn and a no less dramatic winter, when the nation will have to tighten its belt.

Economist Views Present Economic Situation

AU2507105894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 20 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Serhiy Teryokhin, director of the Ukrainian Foundation for Supporting Reforms, by Natalya Filipchuk and Serhiy Vusatyy; place and date not given: "Despite Everything, I Am an Optimist"]

[Text] Last week, Ukraine discussed two important events: Elections of a new president and the generous "gift" by the G-7 in the form of $4 billion for stabilizing the economy. However, this money will be provided on the G-7's own terms: Only when reforms start in Ukraine. We asked Serhiy Teryokhin, director of the Ukrainian Foundation for Supporting Reforms, to comment upon the situation that has taken shape today in our country's economy.

[Teryokhin] No changes have taken place in Ukraine over the past four months. About one-third of the total monetary mass is outside the banks, more specifically this money is in illegal circulation. Overall indebtedness among enterprises is on the increase. Hidden unemployment has reached almost 22 percent.

[Vusatyy] However, the rate of inflation growth has not increased....

[Teryokhin] The financial stabilization of the rate of exchange of the Ukrainian karbovanets is due to two factors. We must face the truth, elections are costly things. I do not think that any of the candidates for deputies managed to limit himself to the six-million [karbovantsi] pre-election fund. As regards the most realistic source of financing—large amounts of [U.S.] dollars have appeared on the market, and demand for the karbovantsi in cash has increased. That is why its rate of exchange remained stable and sometimes showed a trend toward increase.

Another factor is the stringent monetary emission policy pursued by the National Bank, a policy which is, on the one hand, very welcome, but, on the other hand, on one condition: It is not a matter of how much money is in circulation, but of how this money services the economy and how free its circulation is. Unfortunately, the circulation is not quite free. The credits are distributed administratively and do not find their way to an efficient economy. Practically the entire monetary mass issued goes for covering the deficit in the current budget or for financing unprofitable industries.

[Vusaatyy] An idea was voiced at a Supreme Council session to the effect that, if there is not enough money for financing budget branches, this money must be printed. What is your attitude toward this?

[Teryokhin] Let us try to forecast what happens if the announced emissions find their way to the market. Just in terms of announced sums, the volume of monetary circulation will triple by the end of the year. The printing of money is not a way out: The savings of citizens will become depreciated.

A more complicated, but the most effective method is to increase the income part of the budget and eliminate unjustified expenditure. Methods of forming the budget must be revised. Incidentally, over the first half of the year, it was only fulfilled by 30 percent, due to unacceptable taxes. I am very pleased that new finance minister Petro Hermanchuk pointed out: In order for the economy to work, we must reduce taxes. Second, it is necessary to cancel the fixed exchange rate, since the overall budgetary income loses 27 percent as a result of losses in export activity.

[Vusatyy] Can one expect that the new president and government are capable of reforming the economy proceeding from market principles?

[Teryokhin] There is every reason to believe that. The prime minister and the new president are pragmatically-minded people. I believe that the economy will be given priority. However, very much also depends upon the Supreme Council as a legislative body. In this case, too, I am an optimist: There are more economists and lawyers in the Supreme Council of this convocation. If the deputies do not quarrel because of the different colors of their party membership cards, but are guided by the national interests, then the three newly formed branches of power will find a common language, will share the responsibility, and Ukraine will get a chance to become an advanced European state.

At any rate, we hope that this will be the case. The Ukrainian Foundation for Supporting Reforms has prepared several general important bills, some of which are

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being considered by the Supreme Council commissions. For example, on introducing changes into currency regulation and into the procedure for exporting products, on the budget and taxation systems, and also on social protection. It is time to replace the tradition of total protection, which helps the rich to become richer and the poor to get more impoverished, by the system under which the state supports those people who may even not be in the production sphere but who serve our society. Those who cannot make their living for reasons that do not depend upon them are children, pensioners, handicapped people, and low-income families.

[Vusatyy] One last question: A recent issue of KOMERSANT UKRAYINY published your interview: "The Orgy in the Financial System Is the Cause of All the Trouble." In your answers to correspondent Serhiy Lyanhe, you gave a somewhat different assessment of Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol. How do you explain this?

[Teryokhin] I cannot explain this, because there simply was no such an interview. That is why all the words ascribed to me with regard to the specific persons in the publication mentioned by you only make me angry. Let me make you a compliment: From this point of view, HOLOS UKRAYINY is a very accurate and trustworthy newspaper.

Ministry Drafts Macroeconomic Stabilization Program

LD2507181294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Economics Ministry has drafted a program of macroeconomic stabilization for 1994-2003, the Deputy Finance Minister Boris Sobolev told INTERFAX.

Economic reforms will require about $2 billion annually in international financial aid: $800 million to service foreign debts and $1.2 billion for critical imports.

The official said that if the parliament turns the program down, Ukraine might be denied $700 million in IMF aid for economic restructuring. The total Ukrainian quota at the IMF is $1.4 Bn.

Sobolev said the question of opening a credit line as well as the stabilization program will probably be discussed by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Kiev on Wednesday [27 July] and Thursday.

Ministry Tightens Export, Import Control Regulations

LD2607101494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1950 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—On 25 July Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, in coordination with the State Customs Committee of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, and the State Tax Inspectorate, circulated a "procedure for carrying out foreign economic activity by Ukrainian businesses." The procedure envisages that all businesses should declare hard currency values held by the regional branches of the National Bank and the state tax inspectorates at their place of registration on a quarterly basis and within 15 calendar days of the end of the quarter. The declaration certificate that is granted to businesses that declare their capital is a basis on which to submit export and import cargoes for customs registration, to carry out hard currency banking operations, and also to carry out other forms of foreign economic activity.

According to the information and analytical service of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the customs registration of export and import cargoes, the carrying out of banking operations with hard currency values by authorized Ukrainian banks and also the carrying out of other forms of foreign economic activity will, from now on, be carried out only on presentation of a certificate of declaration registered at regional branches of the National Bank of Ukraine and the state tax inspectorates in the place where a business is registered. The procedure comes into effect as of 26 July.

As Volodymyr Hlavatskyy, head of the economic directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, told a UNIAN correspondent, this decision will be of value in that "the national currency will now work for the Ukrainian economy rather than for the economies of foreign countries."

As UNIAN has learned from informed sources, at a meeting of the coordinating committee for the struggle against corruption and organized crime under the president of Ukraine that will be held on 26 July, the term for introducing this procedure may be postponed. The reason is that the majority of importers and exporters are not in possession of certificates of declaration that are required in order for goods to be registered by the customs. As a result, import and export operations could be completely paralyzed.

Moroz, Masol Oppose Chernobyl Closure

LD2507200194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] The Chernobyl nuclear power plant must go on working, Ukrainian parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz told a press conference on Monday [25 July] after a visit to the Chernobyl plant. He expressed confidence that the Ukrainian parliament would also oppose the plans for closing it down.

He said that the government must finance the modernization of the second unit and the reconstruction of the first one. The third unit must be switched to a safe mode of operation and put into service, he said.

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Politically, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant must be closed down, but the world community must allocate money for doing so and for compensating for the loss of energy, he said.

He stated that during his visits to Moscow and Washington his position would not change.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol also opposes plans for closing the Chernobyl plant. He said that in 1994 it is to generate 208 kilowatt hours [as received] of electric energy.

It may be closed down only after a feasibility study is carried out, he said. "My position coincides with the position of the Ukrainian president," he added.

Director-General of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant Sergey Parashin told the press conference that $600 million were needed to make the operation of the plant safe.

Popular Opposition to New Nuclear Plant Generator

LD2507201194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk Oblast—The Council of People's Deputies in the town of Marganets held a plebiscite, concurrent with the elections to the Supreme Council, on the launch of the sixth generating set at Zaporozhye nuclear power plant.

According to the town council chairman, Oleh Bidnyak, some 90 percent of those polled gave a negative reply to the question "Do you agree to the launch of the sixth generating set at Zaporozhye nuclear plant prior to the adoption of a law on the status of residents within 30 km of nuclear power plants?"

Marganets is situated 6 km from the nuclear plant, which is set to become the biggest in Europe after the launch of the sixth generating set. The same poll was held in Nikopol, Dnepropetrovsk oblast, and Kamenets-Dneprovskiy, Zaporozhye oblast, where the majority said "no" in reply to a similar question.

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Belarus

Lukashenka-Yeltsin Summit Rescheduled to 3 Aug

LD2507171894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 Jul 25 Jul 94

[Text] According to sources in the Belarussian [Belarusian] president's staff, talks between Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Boris Yeltsin have been put off from 2 August to 3 August. No documents are expected to be signed. The two presidents will discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, and the main provisions of a future Belarussian-Russian treaty.

On 3 August, Lukashenka is also to meet with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and the speakers of both chambers of the Russian Federal Assembly.

The same sources confirmed that the Russian-Belarussian summit had been put off at Moscow's request.

Lukashenka, New Defense Minister on Army 'Corrections'

WS2507113194 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Interview with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Colonel General Anatol Kastenka, newly appointed defense minister, by Dzmitriy Partona at Defense Ministry headquarters in Minsk on 22 July—recorded, in Russian]

[Text] [Partona, addressing Lukashenka] In your opinion, does the current situation in the Belarusian Armed Forces correspond to that of the Armed Forces in a civilized state?

[Lukashenka] I have just spoken about this issue [at a meeting with Defense Ministry personnel on 22 July], as I understand it; I have spoken in the presence of the new defense minister. As far as I have succeeded in understanding this situation, I think that Anatol Ivanavich [Kastenka] and I will have yet to face a serious assessment of the situation in the Armed Forces. We will examine it more closely. It seems to me that our Armed Forces, the people who serve here, do not deserve what is going on in our Armed Forces. We intend to radically improve the situation in the Armed Forces in terms of reorganization and reforms if there is a need for them. We do not, however, intend to oust anybody under the pretense of reform—I have just spoken about this. We intend to protect our servicemen, put a roof over our officers' heads first; only after that we will demand of them what they should do for the protection of our motherland.

I think that the brotherly Russian people will help us in this. I also think that the extensive contacts by Anatol Ivanavich from the time when he was [Belarusian Military] district commander—he was very highly thought of in the Soviet Union—will help us in stabilizing the situation in our Armed Forces.

[Partona, addressing Kastenka] Anatol Ivanavich, have you outlined any radical plans for reforming the Armed Forces? With what will you begin your first day on the job?

[Kastenka] I would like to begin by stating that I do not intend to outline any radical plans, because the program and concept of reform in the Armed Forces, as well as the military doctrine, have been approved by the Supreme Soviet, the plans have been made and corrected, and are being implemented quite successfully. Another matter is that life introduces its own corrections and requires some elements of change, primarily on the path of acceleration, especially when taking into consideration the difficulties of our time. I think that corrections are necessary.

I want to say that the issues of deepening our cooperation with CIS states impose on us even more serious and important tasks, as well as a responsibility connected with the establishment of good and serious contacts with all states and all countries of our Commonwealth, because this is the only basis—the basis of contacts, especially with Russia—for us to deal with the formidable problems facing the Armed Forces today.

Outgoing Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

WS2207140794 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1300 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] On 22 July, Pyotr Krawchanka held his last press conference as head of the Belarusian foreign office. He summed up his office's work for the last four years, as well as tried to give an outlook regarding the prospects of Belarusian foreign policy. According to Krawchanka, the following facts may be evidence of the four-year fruitful activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: In this period Belarus had been officially recognized by 123 states. Since the end of 1991, Belarus had established diplomatic relations with 97 countries; in the same period 21 foreign embassies and four offices of influential international organizations had been opened in Minsk; 37 foreign ambassadors had been accredited in Belarus. Belarus had opened its diplomatic offices in foreign countries such as the United States, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, and others, as well as a number of consulates. In the near future Belarusian embassies are supposed to be opened in virtually all CIS member-states. In recent years the ministry signed 700 bilateral and multilateral agreements with foreign countries and 200 agreements within the CIS. Belarus has trade and economic agreements with 22 countries. According to Krawchanka, thanks to the foreign office's activity, the Republic succeeded in receiving sizable foreign credits for Chernobyl, ecological, energy, humanitarian, and other projects.

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As for the directions of credit policy, Krawchanka declared that "Belarus should not fear to take out credits, the whole world takes them." According to him, the Republic is far from being in the danger of the nonpayment of credits. He added that "in this field Belarus has a safety margin."

Making a forecast on the development of the country in the coming years, Krawchanka said that "they will be difficult and even tragic." A tangible improvement of the situation, in his opinion, may come after 2000. Krawchanka defined the Kebich government as "a government which is notable for its reasonable and sober approach" to economic problems. "At the post of minister of foreign affairs I did everything so that the nation might rise to its full height," Krawchanka said summing up his four-year activity. He promised to attempt "not to vanish from the political and diplomatic arena." He defined his successor Uladzimir Syanko as "a well-experienced and far-seeing politician." "I am glad that such people will come who will work in the same direction as we did," former foreign minister said.

Ministry Announces Privatization of 32 Enterprises

WS2507144794 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Iryna Sazanovich: "The Choice Becomes More Diverse"]

[Text] The number of stock holding companies has grown. According to the Ministry for Administration of State Property, an additional 32 Belarusian state-owned enterprises are being passed over to the hands of private owners. The Minsk-based worsted fabric factory, the "Kamunarka" confectionery, "Belkantrakt," the varnish-and-paint factory, the Vitebsk "Classical Industry of Fashion" factory, enterprises dealing with the production and selling of paper, construction enterprises, and other state-owned establishments are among them.

Stock in these enterprises can be bought beginning in late July at savings bank branches in exchange for "Mayomast" [ownership] vouchers. Therefore, the number of enterprises in which stock is available in exchange for vouchers has reached 93.

The list of new stock holding companies will be published in the third issue of the "Person and Ownership" magazine.

Agriculture, Light Industry Said Key to Reform

WS2507134594 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 22 Jul 94 p 2

[Interview with Eduard Ivanavich Vasilyev, executive director of the Belarusian Fundamental Research Fund, by Yuras Navumenka; place and date not given: "The National State Policy Cannot Be Based on Foreign Currency. Belarus Should Rely on Agricultural Sector and Light Industry To Overcome the Economic Crisis"]

[Text] Obviously, the time for sweet talk that "our lives aren't so bad" is over. The time for decisive measures—to improve the standard of living of ordinary people and pull the national economy out of its crisis—has come. What are these measures? We offer you another viewpoint on this issue.

[Navumenka] First of all, Eduard Ivanavich, what do we have in our national economy and why is it so?

[Vasilyev] Belarus is in a difficult economic situation; the drop in production is all too apparent. It could not be otherwise because the key economic mechanism—the monetary system—is not functioning. The state needs a true national currency. It is impossible to keep the economy afloat, to stabilize and straighten it out without this condition. In my opinion, the financial-economic system of the Republic is in a state of chaos. Yes, formally we have a national currency—the "hare"—however, it does not fulfill any of the functions that characterize a national currency. First of all, the Belarusian ruble does not perform the function of accumulation, because inflation is rampant and it is safer to hold money in foreign currency or commodities. Second, the "hare" cannot also be used as a means of payment. It does not go out of Belarus because it is not recognized abroad. This means that it is of a purely local nature.

[Navumenka] While a lot is currently being done in Europe to unite the states of the Old World, quite the opposite is under way in the former USSR. There have been, however, many opinions voiced lately as to the various economic unions within the CIS. Some members of the former government believe that if the Republic introduces its national currency it means that the Belarusian state rejects economic union with other states. Is it really so?

[Vasilyev] The national currency does not imply disintegration. The situation is quite the opposite. We need the national currency, for otherwise we will not see the light at the end of the tunnel anytime soon. The truth is that the state national policy cannot be based on foreign currency. If the CIS requires a monetary union, this does not imply that the Russian ruble will be the sole legal tender for members of such a monetary union. This is principally important. The monetary union and a common monetary zone are not the same things. In general, the tendency toward rapprochement between states deserves special attention. The unification of the Slavic states in the CIS economic union has its historical roots. This union existed and will exist for some time to come. This is attributed to a specific Slavic mentality.

[Navumenka] The former government has resigned. It left the economy in a critical situation. What should be done to rescue the national economy from further deterioration?

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[Text] [Vasilyev] Virtually nothing has been done lately to bridle inflation and overcome the crisis. Neither the government, the National Bank, nor the Supreme Soviet were concerned with the falling rate of the "hare" and the slump in production. The result of this policy is that industry is on the verge of shutting down. The state must pay for raw materials and accessories in foreign currency. Therefore, Belarusian enterprises must sell their goods abroad to receive convertible currency. This means that Belarusian-made goods should meet international standards. Unfortunately, our enterprises are penetrating the global market at too slow a pace.

In my opinion, it is possible to do something to overcome the crisis. Of course, we will suffer losses. We should fight ourselves and not wait for help from a kind "uncle." He who believes that someone will help us free of charge and out of the goodness of their heart is gravely mistaken. Economic issues, to all appearances, cannot be resolved by returning to the past.

A fundamentally new situation has developed after the elections. The Belarusian people have, for the first time, voted for the independence and sovereignty of their state. This is a very important moment in the history of our state and we cannot but take advantage of it. The new team faces a lot of urgent tasks. The key ones are of an economic nature. In my opinion, however, we should be in no hurry. It is important that we not repeat Russia's mistakes. We should develop a functional model for a mechanism of state power. It is important when an individual is being chosen to suit the state mechanism and not the other way around.

Prices will have to be raised quite soon. Nothing else can be done in this sector. The one who says that prices have been freed either understands nothing about the matter or is simply lying to the people. No one has freed up prices. They are well regulated. They are set and later—systematically increased. It is necessary to keep the balance in prices so that producers receive enough money to cover their labor costs.

Global expertise shows that the way out of an economic crisis is in the rational regulation of the national economy. This should be done by the state. It is the state that is also responsible for the results. This type of responsibility, however, is postulated by the law and we need a dictatorship of law these days. An owner should also take care of his ownership, while state bodies should handle state ownership.

[Navumenka] Unemployment symbolizes the current economic crisis. What, in your opinion Eduard Ivanavich, characterizes the current unemployment situation in Belarus?

[Vasilyev] Due to the efforts of the former government, the so-called concealed unemployment emerged with us. The figures, which from time to time appeared in official reports, created an illusion of well-being. The problem, nonetheless, exists. Enterprises temporarily stop work, goods are not produced, and, nonetheless, the people are paid. This is an apparent support for inflation: This money is not backed by commodities. We have such a situation when factories and plants can stop working and concealed unemployment is revealed. You can imagine the results....

[Navumenka] What sectors of the national economy should be developed first of all?

[Vasilyev] Belarus can overcome the economic crisis only by relying on agriculture and B group [light industry] enterprises. The experience of other states which once found themselves in similar circumstances also confirms this. In particular, this refers to the agricultural sector and light industry. These sectors of the economy require less investment than heavy industry. In addition, there is a quicker turnover of capital. Funds invested in heavy industry will return to the coffers only in several years because they "rotate" slower.

I would like to say the following in connection with this. I recently participated in a seminar. Feliks Klatsfoks, representative of the Institute for National Economic Forecasts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was also there. Researchers at this institution drafted a short-term and long-term economic forecast for Russia and other former USSR republics for Boris Yeltsin. In their opinion, heavy industry in Belarus will be completely ruined by 1995.

The nation's heavy industry is currently left to fend for itself. This can be only compared with a sick man who was left in the hospital corridor instead of being taken into an operating room. This was done at a time when some of our politicians loudly declared from rostrums that we live better than other people. Beautiful words used to mask the crisis.

Compensation Claim for Chernobyl Damage Under Consideration

WS2607071394 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Will Belarus be compensated for the damage that was caused by the Chernobyl catastrophe? According to the national media, the legal and economic aspects of the problem are now under consideration at the government. A BELAPAN correspondent asked deputy chairman of the State Committee for Problems of Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe for an explanation. "The Council of Ministers of the Republic, he said, has formed a provisional group consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our department, lawyers, sociologists and so on. The group has been charged to study thoroughly legal standards, enlisting the service of foreign experts so that Belarus may advance concrete proposals. The problem is extremely complicated, you know. At one time we, I meaning the Soviet Union, did not sign many international agreements on nuclear power engineering safety. On the other hand, who is

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Belarus to lay claims to? Is it the Ukraine, on the territory of which the Chernobyl nuclear power station is situated or Russia which did not exist as a subject of international law in 1986? There are a lot of juridical nuances here. And we should study them and take into account while working out our claims.

And when will the group submit their conclusions? Time is pressing, you know. According to the international law, the period within which Belarus may make a statement of claim expires in less than two years.

I think we shall have managed to submit our proposals by the end of the current year. I should like to remind you that 70 percent of the areas that were contaminated at a rate of over 15 curies per square kilometer (if we take into account Caesium-137 alone) as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe are situated in Belarus. According to the World Health Organization's forecast, every fourth inhabitant of the Republic will be ill with cancer in 2000. The minimization of consequences of the disaster, medical aid to the population require huge expenditures. [sentence as received] Belarus will not be able to cope with them alone. That is why the question of compensation for damage is extremely topical. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Moldova

Parliament Adopts 'Moldovan' as State Language

AU2607075894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/7/1994—Today, the Moldovan Parliament began to adopt the constitution in the second reading. By noon, the parliament voted on the first 12 articles and stopped at the 13th article on the official language which is the most disputed. The verbal confrontations between the majority and the other factions began with the debates on the 1st article. The Socialists Unity [US] faction insisted that Moldova be not a unitary state since such a clause would contradict the granting of special status to eastern and southern districts. The socialists argued that at the 6 March referendum the Russian-speaking population favored an indivisible and not a unitary Moldova. The Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc (BTI) proposed that Moldova be defined national state. The proposals of both factions did not pass. When debating Article 3 on state borders, Ion Hadarca, from BTI, proposed to add the stipulation that "Moldovan borders cannot be controlled by any other state or group of states" invoking that the CIS structures want to control the whole ex-Soviet territory. This amendment did not pass. Ardent debates arose when discussing Moldova's "permanent neutrality" and the attribution of the Army in such conditions. Valentin Krylov, from US, stated that the article is not based on a profound analysis of these notions and proposed to postpone its examination until additional consultations are made. The lawyers of the constitutional commission consulted during the debates stated that the foreign experts who examined the draft constitution had no objections to this formulation. Deputy Alexandru Muravschi stated that the Army's purpose of "national defence" would mean the deployment of the entire national budget and therefore, he proposed that the Army have the attribution of defending public order. The article on state insignia and flag was voted on by the majority faction Agrarian Democratic Party of Moldova (PDAM), Christian Democratic Popular Front [FPCD] and BTI. And, contrary to the socialists' proposals, the article contains a detailed description of the state insignia and flag not to make someone suspect that "the parliament intends later to give up the current state insignia and tricolor," as Speaker Lucinschi said. The debates on Article 13 aroused a maximum tension. The parliamentary commission opted for the definition "Moldovan language" out of the three proposed. FPCD and BTI deputies opposed and argued that Romanian language should be declared official language. The debates on the constitution will continue this afternoon and the upcoming days, including Saturday. The parliament wants to adopt the constitution by 1 August when its vacation begins.

With 81 votes for and 19 against, the Moldovan Parliament adopted this afternoon the following paragraph of Article 13 of the constitution: "The official language in Moldova is Moldovan." Petru Lucinschi, Moldovan speaker, proposed that the identity of the official language with Romanian be mentioned in the preamble to be discussed and voted on separately. Representatives of the factions, including the Socialist Unity faction, who took part in the debates on this article pointed to the identity of the two languages. Vasile Nedelciuc, from the Peasants and Intellectuals Bloc, pointed out that the exclusion of the term "Romanian" insults those who regard themselves as Romanians and could even generate repressions against them. Before the voting, Lucinschi stated that "the denomination of language is a political problem and therefore, we cannot take the liberty to make decisions. All analyses point to the identity of the two languages." Local observers say that Speaker Lucinschi's efforts to promote the statement "Moldovan language identical to Romanian language" were neutralized by the conservative wings of the PDAM faction supported by the Socialist Unity. The same observers say that the socialists will count on the same conservative PDAM wing to obtain the inter-ethnic communication status for Russian language.

FPCD Protests Parliament Decision

AU2607083794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/7/1994—The fact that the Moldovan Parliament legitimated the term "Moldovan language" and granted a privileged status to Russian language proves that "the current governmental coalition wants to restore the untruth imposed on Bessarabian Romanians by the occupational Soviet regime,"

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states the declaration made public today by the Christian Democratic People's Front (FPCD). It also states that Stalinist methods of suppressing national consciousness will be employed. The FPCD considers this parliamentary decision "an anti-Romanian political act which results in society's division, continuous Russification and socio-linguistic and political degradation of the situation in Moldova." According to the declaration, by ignoring the scientific arguments "the current leadership will pursue a policy of discriminating and retaliating those who will not abide by this decision." It says that the FPCD "will continue the struggle for affirming our fundamental right to Romance linguistic identity."

Government Takes Steps To Combat Drought

AU2607075594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 20/7/1994—The Moldovan Government adopted the decision "On Emergency Measures To Eliminate the Consequences of the Drought in the Agro-Industrial Complex." It recommends "the Food and Agriculture Ministry and district executive committees analyze thoroughly the situation, elaborate and take concrete measures to lessen the consequences of the drought," states the today's issue of the governmental newspaper "MOLDOVA SUVERANA" (SOVEREIGN MOLDOVA). The Finance Ministry and Moldovan National Bank "will grant agro-industrial enterprises from the amount loaned by the Economic European Community a credit of 135 million lei for the purchase of fuel, spare parts, fertilizers, seeds, fodder, agricultural raw material, for the payment of salaries and for the preparation of processing enterprises to collect and process the agricultural output. The State Fuel Association will supply the agricultural enterprises without advance payment 10,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, 10,000 tonnes of gasoline and 250 tons of fuel."

Security Ministry Denies Involvement in Last Elections

AU2607075494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 20/7/1994—"The Ministry of Security did not meddle with the February 27 parliamentary elections," told BASA Valeriu Daraban, press service head of the Ministry of Security. This statement is a commentary to the statement by Anatol Taran, former Moldovan ambassador to Moscow, that the Moldovan security service organized and conducted the 27 February elections. The fact that some officers were promoted right after the elections was regarded by Daraban as a mere coincidence. "The promotion lists are prepared in autumn and 1 February. The fact that the minister decided to sign them after the parliamentary elections is his concern," said Daraban. Daraban also explained that the Ministry of Security acts without law on its activity and it presently acts under government regulations. As to the security service archives, Daraban pointed out that, as a matter of fact, a part of it, including the agent's archive, is located in Tiraspol. "But I have never heard of someone to be blackmailed with this secret data," concluded Daraban.

Finance Ministry Official Discusses Tax Rates

AU2607080294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/7/1994—According to the forecasts for 1994, the land tax on non-industrial enterprises of the agro-industrial complex will represent one percent of the gross product, states to the magazine "KOMMERSANT MOLDOVIY" Liliana Agarkova, head of the economic and fiscal reforms direction of the Moldovan Finance Ministry. If agricultural enterprises paid the income taxes as industrial enterprises did, in 1994 about 68 million lei would have been transferred to the Moldovan budget. They pay only the land taxes and thus the amounts transferred to the budget decreased to 30 million lei, which is a considerable tax exemption. Agarkova said that these and other taxes will be revised. For example, the minimum tax on individuals' income will be increased from 5 to 10 minimum salaries. According to her, the 70 percent taxation on the salary exceeding 50 minimum salaries was unprofitable as citizens grew less interested in more efficient activity and higher gains. Referring to the current fiscal system in Moldova, she denied the statements that taxes in Moldova are a pressing burden. Agarkova said that in Moldova the maximum tax stands at 32 percent, whereas in some countries it stands at 60 percent. The reform of fiscal systems is now being elaborated; it will be more flexible and oriented toward the market economy.

Army's Lebed Mentioned for Russian Defense Minister

AU2607075794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 20/7/1994—An opinion poll performed in the Moscow garrison and military academies, showed that over 70 percent of the questioned soldiers and students would like General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army deployed in Dniester, to be defense minister, reports the newspaper IZVESTIYA. It openly speaks about a forthcoming replacement of Grachev by Lebed and consider Lebed a possible candidate for presidency. Recently, Lebed stated that "he does not wish to become president," but that he does not exclude the possibility of becoming defense minister. Lebed also denounces the present state policies on defense, saying that "the Russian Army has not yet been created; its creation was only declared. Russia has to have armed forces that correspond with the size of its territory. The number of soldiers to represent only 1 percent of the population is a nonsense." Asked what political forces bolster him when he will assume the role of politician, Lebed declared that "there are no political forces behind my

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back," adding that "clear judgment is what upholds me and, because I am a commander, the Army, a well-trained army does too. In order to maintain the current situation, politicians have no other forces at their disposal except the Army. The keeping of the Army is the base for preservation of the state integrity." Referring to the 14th Army's withdrawal from Moldova, Lebed gives an insight into the favorable situation of the Dniester government and considers that, due to the fact that "almost 80 percent of the soldiers originate from the eastern districts," Tiraspol leaders "feel at ease." Lebed indicated the connection between the terms of the Army's withdrawal and economic and political aspects: "The essence of the political aspect consists in the population's consent that the military troops should be withdrawn; the economic aspect is referred to as the precise settlement of the issue: who will defray the expenses and where the troops will be withdrawn. Russia," says the general, "does not have a place where to withdraw the Army, lacks financial resources for such an action and, also, the withdrawal is not welcome. I do not refer to Russia's political leaders but to the military ones who have taken a negative attitude on the Army's withdrawal," pointed out the 14th Army's commander.

Lebed Sees 'Long' Deployment in Dniester

AU2607093594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2045 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 23/7/1994—"We will stay in Dniester for a long time," declared the 14th Army commander, General Aleksandr Lebed, whose army is deployed on the Moldovan territory, at a meeting with the military council members and officers who serve on contractual basis. "Things can change, like the name of the units. Some changes in the composition of the army are possible, too. It is not excluded that the 14th Army will be renamed, but our position is firm. Some people dislike the 14th Army. Then let us call it differently—an operative group or a military base—but it is a fact that the 14th Army is one of the best units in the Russian Armed Forces and we have to prove it every day," said Lebed. Some observers believe that the 14th Army commander's declaration aim at preserving the 14th Army's location in Dniester. Tiraspol sources point out that General Lebed is currently in a vacation and is out of Tiraspol.

Dniester Military Presence in Tighina 'Destabilizing'

AU2607083594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2100 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/7/1994—Two years has passed since the bilateral agreement between Russia and Moldova on the settlement of the Dniester conflict was signed on 21 July. On this occasion the Tighina (Bender) police commissar Valeriu Prudnicov gave an interview to BASA. According to him, the effects of the agreement are far from being optimist. He thinks that the agreement should be revised as the political situation in Moldova and Dniester has changed. According to him, the decisions of the Joint Control Commission set up following the agreement are inefficient because they are not carried out. Prudnicov mentioned that the Joint Control Commission has no reasons to exist and that other structures should be created to settle the Dniester dispute. He said that the situation in Tighina (Bender) is uncertain. "There is neither war nor peace in Tighina." A destabilizing factor is the presence of the Dniester military formations. The newspaper NOVOYE VREMYA states that "an instruction centre of the Dniester defense ministry is located in the fortress of Tighina." Some 200-300 people are located there. They will attend courses of military instruction. This is a serious violation of the agreement, Prudnicov said. A Dniester security section is also located in Tighina (Bender). The police is confined to merely ascertaining the facts its activity is blocked as its telephone line was cut. The Tighina police which is under Chisinau jurisdiction has 104 people, whereas the Tiraspol militia has more than 500 people. According to Prudnicov the government should take some measures to solve the situation in Tighina (Bender).

Further on Dniester Troops in Tighina

AU2607075194 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 20/7/1994—In the city of Tighina (Bender) the concentration of Dniester armed forces continues. City administration sources told BASA that three days ago around 200 Dniester soldiers administered an oath of faith to the Smirnov government. They are deployed in the Tighina fortress, where the school for sub-officer's training is located. The construction of fortification structures around all critical strategical sectors including barrages and bullet-proof firing locations continues. Representatives of the Joint Control Commission told BASA that they deem these actions as a serious violation of the Snegur-Yeltsin agreement. The agreement stipulates that the presence or deployment in Tighina of any military troops, except peace keeping forces, police and militia, is forbidden.

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Tajikistan

Authorities Deny Hostages Held in Gorno-Badakhshan

LD2607090794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0731 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Jul—The whereabouts of the over 50 servicemen, including several officers of the Tajik Defense Ministry, who were taken prisoner on the night of 21-22 July by an armed opposition grouping in the Tavildarinskiy rayon of the Republic's Pamir region, are still unknown. At the same time, the Gorno-Badakhshan authorities have categorically denied rumors that the POW's were allegedly taken to Pamir territory and that the armed grouping is preparing to send them to the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Garibsho Shabozov, chairman of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, told this ITAR-TASS correspondent today that the Pamir special services have carried out a number of operational search measures involving representatives of the local authorities of Darvazskiy, Vanchskiy, and Rushanskiy rayons. However, no trace of the POW's was found.

According to the oblast's leader, the political council of the opposition democratic forces of Gorno-Badakhshan condemn the capture of the government forces' servicemen, and views this act as an attempt by certain political forces to play the Pamir card in order to draw the people of Badakhshan into the conflict with the central government of Tajikistan.

Garibsho Shabozov said the field commanders of the Pamir opposition said at yesterday's meeting with the oblast's leadership that if they discover the POW's on the oblast's territory they will release them immediately and hand them over to the official authorities of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Defense Minister: Soldiers Not in Afghanistan

LD2607093994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0742 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 July—Over 50 Tajik servicemen, seized in the Amur region by the armed opposition on the night of 21 to 22 July, were captured because their commander switched to the opposition and took his subordinates with him.

The group of Russian troops in Tajikistan does not deny such a possibility, but Major General Aleksandr Shishlyannikov, the Republic's defense minister, said in a telephone conversation with ITAR-TASS today that he knows nothing about this. He also said that the Tajik servicemen were captured as a result of "their own carelessness." The minister gave no details but added that intelligence is involved in an active search for the captured servicemen and that talks with various Pamir leaders are under way to find the servicemen.

Shishlyannikov denied reports that the captured servicemen had already been transferred to Afghanistan. He said the incident has had no effect on the political situation in Tajikistan.

Border Guard Commander: Situation 'Complicated'

LD2607100194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0908 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jul—Colonel Vladimir Novikov, chief of staff of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, called the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border complicated but under control.

In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, he reported that no large-scale transfer of the forces of the Tajik armed opposition and the Afghan mojahedin towards the border has been observed so far. However, Novikov believes that a certain activation of antigovernment forces cannot be denied. This is evidenced, first of all, by the capture of over 50 servicemen of the Tajik Ministry of Defense, the search for whom is still continuing.

ITAR-TASS Puzzled by 'Silence' on Hostages

LD2607102494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Jul—Subunits of Tajik Government troops are continuing their search for the more than 50 servicemen of the National Army who were seized by an armed opposition group of field commander Khakim on the night of 21-22 July. Major Vasiliy Likhalev, head of the Tajik Defense Ministry's press center, said at a meeting with a group of Russian correspondents today that despite the efforts of the military authorities, no contact has been established with the leaders of the armed opposition, therefore, it has not been possible to discover their motives for capturing the servicemen, or the opposition's possible demands. Searches are being complicated by clashes with scattered antigovernment groups hiding in inaccessible mountain gorges. Nevertheless, V. Likhalev stressed, the government forces are in control of the situation. Hotbeds of opposition resistance are being gradually localized; there are no more than 200 of such fighters.

The leadership of the Defense Ministry is doing everything possible to establish as soon as possible the whereabouts of the prisoners and to obtain their release.

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At the same time, independent sources in Dushanbe are puzzled by the Tajikistan official authorities complete lack of reaction to this unprecedented event. Five days have already gone by since the tragic event occurred, but neither the Supreme Soviet nor the government has made any official statement. The local mass media is also maintaining a stubborn silence. The population of the Republic learns all news about the tragic events from foreign sources.

Report on 21 Jul Supreme Council Session

LD2107163794 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan continued its work today. Now a report from our correspondent.

[Unidentified correspondent] The third sitting of the session started this morning at 0800. Opening the session, Supreme Council Chairman Imamali Rakhmonov proposed the examination of the draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the individual construction and building of private homes. Zakhruddinov, chairman of the Supreme Council committee responsible for this spoke on the subject. Following a brief discussion, this draft law was adopted and will be published.

This morning a Supreme Council Presidium session was held at which the decision on adding to the agenda of the session the discussion on the draft law of the Republic of Tajikistan on presidential elections in the Republic of Tajikistan was approved. The session will discuss this draft law.

Imamali Rakhmonov then invited Kayum Kavmuddinov, chairman of the National Bank of Tajikistan to the platform. His report lasted for about two hours. This is understandable. The question is of course very important. About 20 deputies put questions to him and in my opinion assessed the activities of the National Bank and its leadership. [passage omitted]

Answering questions raised by the deputies in their speeches, Kayum Kavmuddinov noted that until the republic does not enter the ruble zone the tackling of the problem will be [word indistinct]. This question, however, he noted, is not only the responsibility of the National Bank, but also the government. The head of state then asked Abduljalil Samadov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, to clarify the question on the entry of Tajikistan into the ruble zone.

[Begin Samadov recording] Esteemed comrade deputies! I have spoken on many occasions about the question that the indicator of the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan is whether we give the necessary funds for paying on time the wages, pensions, grants, and income support. Further we gave figures, which were stated here as being 300 to 200 billion [currency not specified]. This is the loan for payments in the first half of this year. We have received the credit that the Russian Federation agreed to give to the sum of 120 billion rubles. An agreement was signed for this credit and guarantee pledges were approved. The guarantee pledges included a series of sites, including industrial, and one tonne of gold was deposited in the Russian bank. The whole amount has been deposited.

Today we have fulfilled our responsibilities and Russia is fulfilling its responsibilities by providing its credits in line with the agreement. The essence of the question is this: on 16 June we were to sign a whole package of documents on unifying the currency systems of the two countries. Were the documents ready by this time ? Yes! The Tajik side had prepared all the documents that were given to the Russian Government. Has the Russian Government made a decision on whether to sign these documents now? No! It has not been decided.

Today this question is political. Its decision will greatly depend on how persistent we are on not wanting to introduce temporary coupons. We can issue paper money, issue paper money of various values reflecting various Tajik symbols, but this will lead to a sharp increase in inflation. Today, however, we see a totally different picture. Yes it is difficult for us. There are single incidents or even tens and tens of incidents when it is very difficult for the people. We have to be patient. If we take another path this will be even more difficult for us. We asked the Russian Federation to support us in unifying the currency systems and asked for the credit to be (?increased) to 180 billion rubles until the end of this year. We have not received an official rejection yet. The situation in the Russian Government, in the Russian State Duma, in the Federation Council is not the same. There are forces that support the wish of Tajikistan to unify the currency systems and there are forces that do not support this. We know the political stance of Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, and the position of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, and important ministers with whom we have dealings, chairmen of committees in the State Duma and Federation Council with whom we work. Our people are not leaving Moscow. They are constantly there. This position is that they want to support Tajikistan.

[First name indistinct] Ahmedov asks what steps has the government taken to protect the home market? If we had received the 120 billion rubles immediately then we could have [words indistinct]. When we only received 30 to 40 percent of our demands in the absence of a [word indistinct] market there was a heavy inflow of goods from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan because the Russian ruble is a convertible ruble and this money did not leave Tajikistan just like that, simply in hundreds of suitcases. They left through the goods sold here. The goods were, however, sold by others. [indistinct passage] This is of course a well known tendency to save the money for a rainy day, not in banks but in the purse. [indistinct passage]. All those who receive a minimum, such as pensioners, students, and doctors are the ones who are not protected. [passage omitted]

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Today, the government, together with the National Bank, I will stress again, are working toward attracting foreign credits. The work can be fulfilled successfully. If we do not control the process of political catalysts the credit agreements will be destroyed. An example being the latest actions against Russian officers. I am not talking about the aims, reasons, etc behind these actions. The official Western press wrote on the latest reasons and the Western banks refused. The Western press, as you ought to know, write against our government. The Western banks cannot finance a country that is politically unstable. We can prove to them that this is not the case and invite them to come and see it for themselves. They came, looked, and were convinced but are still hesitant to work with us.

Today I am confident that we will receive the credits. In Tajikistan there is something for which it can receive credits. [indistinct passage] The question on the bad situation in the economy, particularly in industry, will be discussed on a number of occasions this year. I would like to say this: Industry will only be successful if it has the necessary material and technical resources that it used to receive from the other CIS countries, particularly from Russia. For this to be received from Russia we need a credit so as to be able to pay the enterprises whose products are needed by our industrial enterprises. Such a credit for our republic in 1993-94 was half a trillion rubles. We were given 60 billion rubles. Ten billion of this went to [word indistinct] and 50 billion rubles went to (?services). In March, we signed an agreement with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin on a credit to the sum of 80 billion rubles. Not a single kopeck has so far been [word indistinct]. Not a single one. When it does the Ministry for Economy will today distribute this credit, which we have not yet received. We will, foremost, give it to industry so as to support it. [passage omitted] We have all suffered together. If we look back on to the last years, they were very difficult and horrific. Today, here the leaders of the government and the Supreme Council, members of the government are with responsibility, with responsibility engaged in trying to save this country. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Completing the discussion of the question on money, Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Council and head of state, said that for tackling our financial, economic, and social problems it is necessary for us to tackle the political problems. This is, foremost, the adoption of the new Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan and electing a new president of Tajikistan. The tackling of many other problems will follow. Why is this necessary for us today? We need this today to establish more sociopolitical stability in Tajikistan and to obtain the confidence of the world public, including our close neighbors, the confidence that they can work with us. Only then can the problems be tackled faster, including entry into the ruble zone and concluding agreements on foreign investments.

Law on Election of President Published

LD2507121894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Here is a law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the election of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The president of the Republic of Tajikistan is elected by the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan, in a secret ballot on the basis of universal, direct, and equal suffrage. Any citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan aged between 35 and 65 who knows the state language and has lived on the territory of Tajikistan for at least the past 10 years, and who has a right to vote, can be nominated to the post of president.

The president is elected for a five-year term. [Word indistinct] a person may not be elected to the post of president of the Republic of Tajikistan for more than two consecutive terms.

Violation of regulations of this article invalidates the election of president.

Citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan who are at least 18 years of age have the right to participate in the election of the president of the Republic. [Passage indistinct].

A full text of the law on election of the president will be published in the press.

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Armenia

Participants Assess Talks on Karabakh Issue

LD2507200094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2145 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Yerevan is abstaining from assessing the visit of the Russian president's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov to Armenia on July 20 to 22, because the talks on the settlement of the Karabakh problem still continue, the Armenian president's acting Press Secretary Levon Zurabian told INTERFAX. He said official judgments might complicate the discussion and the peacekeeping initiatives, including the ones proposed by Russia.

Secretary of the parliamentary commission for Nagorno-Karabakh Suren Zolian told INTERFAX that the new plan for the settlement of the Karabakh problem did not include the most essential question of Karabakh's status, and that it was based on unilateral concessions and did not provide any guarantees. Zolian believes that Russia's new initiative pursues propaganda goals and attests to Russia's political activity in the region.

Asked about a possible rapprochement of Russia's and the CSCE's positions on the Karabakh problem, Zolian said that this was to be decided by the mediators themselves and that there were no cardinal differences in their concepts.

Karabakh Official: 'No Other Way' But Independence

NC2607073294 Yerevan SNARK in English 0939 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Stepanakert, July 25 (SNARK)—The foreign policy course Nagorno-Karabakh is taking corresponds with the military and political situation the Republic lives in, considers the Chairman of the Parliament Permanent Commission on Foreign Relations Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan.

Speaking to SNARK Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan mentioned that the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh does all the best to follow the direction chosen December 10, 1991. The day of December 10, 1991, is known as the day of the referendum. It's the day when the people of Nagorno-Karabakh chose the only path—to independence.

"There is no other way", said Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan.

President, Foreign Minister Receive French Delegates

NC2507203494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received today Roland Bleu, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French National Assembly, and [name indistinct], the director of the same committee. They are on a fact-finding mission to the Caucasus on the instructions of the committee.

In greeting the guests, the president noted that recently the interstate relations between France and Armenia have become more intensive and better coordinated at all levels—the presidential, consultative, governmental, and other levels.

At the request of Mr. Bleu, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan outlined Armenia's position on the resolution of Azerbaijani- Karabakh conflict.

French Ambassador to Armenia France d'Arteng, and Hovhannes Igityan, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Armenian Supreme Council, were present at the meeting.

The Chairman of the Parliament Babken Ararktsyan today received Roland Bleu, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French National Assembly, who is visiting the region to study the situation in the Karabakh conflict zone, and the possible ways France could participate in the resolution of the conflict. This was the focus of the discussions, during which Babken Ararktsyan explained his observations on the ways in which diplomatic efforts could be productive at this stage of resolving the conflict and on possible courses of events.

The chairman of the parliament particularly emphasized that the current situation makes it (?possible) to find solutions, yet at the same time it is fraught with the danger of a resumption and intensification of combat operations. [Words indistinct] the unconsolidated relative [word indistinct] cease-fire could be violated at any moment because there are always the [words indistinct] of resuming the military operations.

Matters relating to the further development of cooperation between the Armenian and French parliaments were also raised during the meeting.

Hovhannes Igityan, head of the parliament's Armenian-French Friendship Group, French Ambassador to Armenia France d'Arteng, and other officials were present at the meeting.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan also received today the delegation of the French National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee led by Roland Bleu. The Armenian foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the meeting, and at the request of the guest explained the entire complex of issues relating to the political resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He informed them of the latest steps taken by Ambassador Jan Eliasson, chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, and Vladimir Kazimirov, head of the Russian mediation mission for the political resolution of Karabakh conflict.

Mr. Papazyan noted that a de facto cease-fire has been holding for the last two months in the conflict zone; and

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in the opinion of the Armenian authorities it must be placed on a legal foundation. The Armenian side is observing the cease-fire and for the time being is not retaliating for the periodic border provocations by the Azerbaijani side. Among others, the legalizing of the cease-fire is being supported by the presidency of CSCE Minsk Group.

Mr. Papazyan also gave the Armenian authorities' assessment of the concrete military-political situation that has taken shape in the conflict zone.

He also provided explanations on issues raised by Mr. Bleu in the light of his recent meetings with the Turkish and Azerbaijani officials in Istanbul and Baku.

Mr. Papazyan reiterated the Armenian authorities' readiness to reactivate the Minsk Commission as soon as possible without preconditions and on the basis of a secure and monitorable cease-fire. Any precondition or attempt to bring forward problems relating to the next stages of the peace process would aim to undermine the peace process.

Availing himself of the opportunity, the Armenian foreign minister highly assessed France's all-round support to the Armenian Republic, including inside international organizations.

The meeting was held in a warm and sincere atmosphere.

The French Ambassador to Armenia France d'Arteng was present at the meeting.

President Lauds Newspaper's Achievements

944K1815C Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 19 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by the News Department under the rubric "Jubilee": "To Toil for the Benefit of the Country and the People"]

[Text] A solemn event devoted to the publication of the 1,000th issue of the newspaper AYASTANI ANRAPETUTYUN was held on Saturday at the Press House. Republic President L. Ter-Petrosyan, parliament Speaker B. Ararktsyan, Prime Minister G. Bagratyan, ministers, other officials, and journalist-colleagues came to congratulate the newspapermen on their holiday.

In his message of greetings, L. Ter-Petrosyan noted the significant contribution made by AYASTANI ANRAPETUTYUN to the emergence and development of democratic national journalism, a pluralistic civil society, and independent statehood. According to the president, the role and significance of the printed word are growing in the environment of freedom and democracy. In this reference, L. Ter-Petrosyan, highly praising the operation of the newspaper, called on the staff of AYASTANI ANRAPETUTYUN to continue laboring with a strong sense of civic responsibility without stooping to the level of the yellow press, to evaluate facts and phenomena analytically, to broaden constructive and effective criticism, and to promote through their work, in every way possible, the reinforcement of favorable tendencies in the sociopolitical development of the state.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Yeltsin Envoy Discuss Conflict

LD2507220694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1501 GMT 25 Jul 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayev and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 25 Jul—The process of bringing stances into line on issues connected with settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was continued during talks between Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev and the Russian president's plenipotentiary Vladimir Kazimirov. This was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today by the press office of the head of the Azerbaijani state.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from a confidential source that agreement was reached at the meeting between Heydar Aliyev and Vladimir Kazimirov on the need to elaborate a series of measures to strengthen the cease-fire regime in the conflict zone.

Aliyev Meets U.S. Delegation

944K1848A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[AZERTADZH report: "Strengthening Azerbaijani-American Relations"]

[Text] **Azerbaijan's relations with the United States are built on the basis of the principles of mutual respect, which creates firm ground for the long-term development of interstate cooperation. This was stated by Geydar Aliyev, president of the republic, on 19 July when receiving a delegation headed by Gregory Govan, general director of the U.S. On-Site Inspections Agency, which is in Baku.**

Noting that Azerbaijan has positive experience in fulfillment of the Treaty Limiting Conventional Arms in Europe, General G. Govan announced that the American delegation's visit was connected with these matters. According to the guest, the visit testifies to an important fact—recognition of the independence of Azerbaijan, since in the said treaty the Azerbaijan Republic figures as an independent state. Speaking of the intention to exchange experience as equal parties, the head of the American delegation observed that it was interested in technical matters connected with fulfillment of the treaty, which reflects provisions of both a political and military nature. We have come, the general said, with specific proposals and hope that our cooperation will enable the representatives of the corresponding departments of the two countries to become better acquainted with the work of their colleagues.

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Having expressed satisfaction in connection with the presence and the purposes of the visit to the republic of the U.S. delegation, Geydar Aliyev noted particularly that Azerbaijan is, truly, today an independent state. We will always uphold the independence of our country, he said. Relations between Azerbaijan and the United States of America are built on the principles of respect for each other's independence and should embrace all spheres, military included, the leader of the republic emphasized, and from this viewpoint your visit is of great significance.

Noting that the Azerbaijan Republic builds its relations with all countries on the basis of its own national interests, the president observed that particular significance is attached to relations with the United States of America. According to Geydar Aliyev, bilateral cooperation in the military sphere corresponds to the foreign policy interests of Azerbaijan and that the republic's affiliation to NATO's Partnership for Peace program on 5 May of this year also contributes to the development of this cooperation.

Having called the guests' attention to the fact that, as distinct from certain countries of the CIS, there are no military bases of other states on the territory of Azerbaijan, the president of the republic emphasized that Azerbaijan is building its relations with other countries, the United States included, as an independent state.

Speaking about the fact that Azerbaijan is in a state of war with Armenia and aspires to a settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, Geydar Aliyev noted the great interest on the part of the Azerbaijan side in the establishment of cooperation with the United States in the military sphere, which, in his opinion, could contribute to a solution of the conflict.

State counselors Vafa Gulizade and Nureddin Sadykhov and Richard Kozlaric, ambassador of the United States in Azerbaijan, were present at the meeting.

Aliyev Agrees to Oil Negotiations Statement

944K1847A Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Leyla Dzhavadkyzy report: "Contract Signing Expected"]

[Text] **Confidence of this was expressed by Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, at a meeting with representatives of the State Oil Company and the Western oil consortium. The subject of the meeting were the results of the negotiations between the State Oil Company and the consortium.**

As Natig Aliyev, president of the State Oil Company, said, the negotiations had been conducted in several stages. Two meetings in Baku had been devoted to the harmonization of models proposed by both parties, and technical and legal aspects of the development of the Azeri and Chirag fields were developed. The Istanbul stage of the negotiations enabled the parties to reach agreement on 46 contentious issues. The commercial terms of the contract were agreed at the final stage of the meeting. According to Natig Aliyev, all matters pertaining to the structure of the management and the participation of national personnel were agreed, and the State Oil Company's proposals concerning an acceleration of the process of the recovery of oil in the Azeri and Chirag fields with the aid of the Chirag-1 platform were approved. The question of early exports of oil by way of the reversal of the Baku-Groznyy pipeline and the construction of an export oil pipeline was agreed also. All problems connected with the economic mechanism of the repayment of capital investments and the distribution of profit were settled. Thus, in the opinion of the president of the State Oil Company, the bulk of the work has been completed. A statement, which is being offered both parties for signature, was drawn up on its results.

The negotiations were at times of a tense nature, but a good spirit of mutual understanding was always maintained, which made agreement possible. This was the opinion of Ed Whitehead, vice president of British Petroleum. In his opinion, the representatives of Azerbaijan negotiated constructively and knew how to defend the republic's interests. Now, when mutual accord has been achieved, it is necessary to embark on the elaboration of the terms of the contract.

The need for this was noted also by Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan. A year ago the negotiations were suspended for objective reasons, after which the leader of the republic met with a delegation of the consortium and set forth his reasons and intentions. According to the president, the suspension of the negotiations had been dictated merely by the need for a more balanced approach to the republic's resources. "This is a very important question for us," Geydar Aliyev said. "We must adopt a jealous attitude toward our resources. My purpose is to ensure that Azerbaijan's resources be used in cooperation with overseas specialists for the good of the republic. Any cooperation should be mutually beneficial, and whereas Azerbaijan has admitted foreign companies to its mineral resources, it must not forget about the future either. The present negotiations have been conducted on the basis of these principles. The rumors and inventions that arose following the suspension of the negotiations last year have today been shown to have been without foundation. The setbacks only made it possible to go deeper into the problem. And the successful completion of the negotiations is testimony to this."

Having expressed satisfaction that the negotiations are practically complete, Geydar Aliyev observed that their most salutary stage began on 4 February, when the edict approving the principles of the State Oil Company pertaining to negotiations with the consortium was signed. Now the final crucial stage is preparation of the draft contract. The president gave his consent to the signing of the statement on the results of the negotiations

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and expressed the hope that the work would after this proceed faster and that the draft contract would be signed as soon as possible. In addition, in the president's opinion, a program of practical work should be drawn up also. As a whole, the documents made ready for signing should reflect the national interests of Azerbaijan and conform to international standards.

Vakhid Akhundov and Vafa Gulizade, state counselors of the Azerbaijan Republic, and representatives of the Amoco and Pennzoil companies were present at the meeting.

Georgia

Official: Use of Force Possible in Kodor Gorge

LD2607134094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Jul 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A Russian parliament Federation Council delegation is set to inspect the implementation of the Federation Council's decision on the use of the Russian Armed Forces in the peacekeeping operation in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone. Leaving for Georgia today, it is headed by Vadim Gustov, chairman of the Committee for CIS Affairs. Members of the delegation will meet leaders of Georgia, UN military observers, and the commander of the Russian troops in the Transcaucasus.

[Correspondent K. Bzhaniya] The problem of the Kodor Gorge is still unresolved. Georgia is refusing to pull out its military hardware and armed formations from the Abkhaz region of Svanetiya, the strength of which is about 900 men according to preliminary data. As has transpired, the commander of the Svan subunits were not even aware of the need to leave Abkhaz territory. At the meeting, top officials of the UN blue helmets, of the Abkhaz defense ministry, and of the Svan field commanders handed over a package of agreements on the Kodor Gorge to Svan field commanders. [sentence as heard] The Svan grouping promised to give its answer next Saturday. The Abkhaz deputy defense minister intimated that force might then be used to resolve the problem.

Shevardnadze Weekly Interview

LD2507111994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0616 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Regular Monday interview" with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Oniani] Mr. Shevardnadze, as we know, the UN Security Council has passed Resolution No. 937. What changes will it bring about in the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict? How important is this document for Russia? As we know, there were doubts that in case of the Russian interference in the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict, the United Nations could have abandoned the settlement of this issue altogether.

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Greetings. It is the latest resolution by the Security Council and it is an important resolution from the point of view of the fact that the first stage of the military and political aspects of the peacekeeping mission has been completed. We could not have considered it completed if the UN's stance to those actions, which were mapped out at the meeting of the heads of the CIS states remained vague. When I am talking about the first stage I mean that prerequisites have been created for the return of refugees and for the commencement of a serious dialogue about Abkhazia's status and the peaceful settlement in general.

I would like to read out several clauses of the above resolution as I think that this resolution is of a principle significance for the settlement of the conflict. This resolution will be published in the press, but some people do not have a chance to get papers, therefore, I will read some clauses of the resolution.

Resolution No. 937, which I think is the 10th resolution passed by the United Nations in connection with Georgia says:

"A. The Security Council once again confirms Georgia's sovereignty, its territorial integrity; and on the basis of the international law and the Moscow quadripartite agreement on the return of those forcibly displaced, and refugees, confirms the right for all refugees and the forcibly displaced to return to their homes provided safety is guaranteed.

"B. The Security Council welcomes the Moscow agreement of 14 May on a cease-fire and disengagement of the opposing sides."

Another very important clause: The Security Council takes into consideration a wide-scale settlement of the conflict under the auspices of the United Nations. Please pay attention, as it says: "Under the auspices of the United Nations," and also "with Russia's mediation and the participation of the CSCE at the current talks on a wide-scale political settlement of the conflict which must envisage the settlement of Abkhazia's political status based on the resolutions passed earlier on deep respect for Georgia's sovereignty and its territorial integrity."

I would like to go to the first sentence: "The resolution takes into consideration a wide-scale settlement of the conflict under the auspices of the United Nations."

[Oniani] People here used to say that the United Nations had nothing to do with it and that it was Russia's business.

[Shevadnadze] Yes, they would say that the United Nations had turned away, etc. But in actual fact, it did not happen and it could not have happened. [passage omitted]

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The Security Council welcomes the efforts by the CIS states directed to holding a cease-fire in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and their efforts to secure the return of refugees and the forcibly displaced to their homes in keeping with the Moscow agreement of 14 May and the quadripartite agreement, and with close cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The Security Council welcomes Russia's input in peacekeeping forces. It is of a principle importance because I remember that the first variant of this clause said that the United Nations was aware of the Russian participation, whereas here we are talking about the United Nations support for Russia's participation because the United Nations recognizes it. [passage omitted]

As I have said, the first stage for the return of refugees has been completed, and everything that had to be done has been done; now everything hinges on what will be done in practical terms, what measures will be taken to start the process of the return of refugees. I think that it will start in the immediate future.

[Oniani] Thank you. If the United Nations welcomes the Russian participation, it means that the United Nations takes responsibility for it.

[Shevardnadze] Naturally. It is obvious that the United Nations is a participant of the peacekeeping process, and the fact that the mandate of the UN observers has been widened and that Russia welcomed it is of major importance. Here we are talking about the unification of forces of Russia, CIS, UN Security Council observers and the High Commissioner for Refugees. All this is very impressive; now it depends on what practical measures will be taken. Everything depends on Russia. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] Last week's more significant event was the Russo-Georgian conference on economic cooperation and investments arranged by the Citizens' Union of Georgia. The West has always demanded that we regulate our relations with Russia, and this process has probably already started. Since a peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz issue is under way, Russian and Western businessmen have started to establish contacts with Georgia, although Russian President Yeltsin visited Georgia before and a comprehensive agreement between Russia and Georgia was signed.

[Shevardnadze] First, I must say that the visit of the Russian businessmen to Georgia was a very significant event. It was the first meeting of its kind since the well-known complications [not further identified]. [passage omitted]

During the session of the Citizens' Union of Georgia to be held today, the results of this conference will be summed up, and I hope to participate in this session. The Russo-Georgian conference was a significant event. It not only demonstrates a general desire for cooperation and the mutual benefit, which were expressed at the conference, but here we are talking about the meeting between experienced partners who did not need to ensure themselves of the need for economic integration. Therefore, dozens of contracts were shaped out as well as protocols for further cooperation, which will assume the form of contracts later on. I think the results will become palpable during the current year, maybe not for the country on the whole, but for dozens of enterprises and organizations.

We could not have started this cooperation if we had not had prerequisites such as joining the CIS, signing a package of agreements with Russia, and the peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. There were the key prerequisites for starting a major economic cooperation with Russia, not just with the Russian Government—I would say not so much with the government but with the government's help, cooperation with businessmen, organizations, regions, ministries, departments, concerns, and so forth. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] We are probably talking about new relations here. I would like to go back to what I said before—that both Russian and Western businessmen started to cooperate with us only after the appropriate conditions had been created in Georgia. Business is not concerned only with Russia's political aims in Georgia; it is concerned first with what it can gain for itself. When businessmen saw that the appropriate conditions had been created in Georgia, they started to cooperate with us.

[Shevardnadze] If the first stage of stabilization I discussed before had not ended, this conference would not have been held. In Russia, too, the laws of the market economy are functioning. According to business laws, there can be no business when there is war and bloodshed.

[Oniani] Proceeding from this, the path for a settlement of the Abkhaz problem looks different, and there are more hopes for it.

[Shevardnadze] As I have said, business has its own laws, and those laws define political life. Proceeding from this, we can arrive at many significant conclusions.

[Oniani] Regarding economics, you received the IMF delegation yesterday, and I know that you had a very important dialogue with them.

[Shevardnadze] The dialogue was indeed very important. [passage omitted] The IMF will help us only if we ourselves create a foundation for it. I told the members of the delegation yesterday what we had managed to do under the conditions of the civil war, what we had failed to do, and what led the country to this condition. It is important at this stage to regulate our financial and credit system and speed up privatization. We must form a level of proprietors. You must have paid attention to our measures in connection with savings banks, cooperatives, and so forth. When I am talking about speeding up the process of privatization, I mean the guidelines of the program that I have included in my edict. I do not

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want to repeat the contents of the edict. I have talked about my views on the revival of the country's economy, its credit and financial system, and the population's social security in my quite lengthy interview which was published in SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA [GEORGIAN REPUBLIC]. It would be good if our public paid attention to the opinions expressed in the interview. As you know, our foreign partners, representatives of the World Bank and the IMF, share the key views on the issue. Thus, starting with my meetings in Washington and Paris, the principles of our cooperation with these international organizations have been clearly shaped. I mean Washington and Paris here. These dialogues are continuing in Tbilisi, with the participation of a vast circle of our colleagues.

[Oniani] One more subject which has given rise to rumors among us: Georgian Defense Minister General Varden Nadibaidze's visit to Moscow. It was said that the Georgian authorities have handed the only trump card, military bases, to Russia for free.

[Shevardnadze] I have spoken briefly about this subject in my previous interviews. In addition, as far as I know, yesterday there were two TV interviews with Defense Minister Gen. Nadibaidze. I think his answers were exhaustive, so I will not repeat them. I would like to tell my colleagues, partners, and opponents to contact us or contact the Defense Ministry, or contact us at the office of the head of state to clarify the issue before stating their opinion categorically on subjects of such state importance as military bases.

[Oniani] Last week, another rally of the former president's supporters was held. The rally did not condemn Russia; rather, one of the leaders of the national movement was carrying out an anthropological study of—excuse me—your skull, wanting to find out how national is the shape of Shevardnadze's head.

[Shevardnadze] I welcome the fact that they have stopped condemning Russia. They have made progress.

[Oniani] They must have listened to your requests to stop condemning Russia.

[Shevardnadze] They must have heard my pleas. As for the anthropological study, I cannot keep on laughing, but I do want to answer. God knows I have never claimed to have a head shape typical for a Georgian man—a round head and a slim body, for which Irakli Tsereteli [opposition activist] is renowned, but you know that sometimes God gives all assets to one man and others are losers and I am one of the losers.

[Oniani] Let us return to a serious topic.

[Shevardnadze] I was being serious.

[Oniani] A Russian Federation Council delegation is arriving in Georgia tomorrow. How important is this visit to us?

[Shevardnadze] The Russian Federation Council delegation is very authoritative. It includes the [word indistinct] committee, deputies, and their advisers. The delegation will arrive tomorrow. We attach significant importance to the delegation's visit. The Russian Federation Council, as you know, was unanimous in supporting the peacekeeping mission in Abkhazia, and I have already expressed my gratitude. Now we are going to discuss practical matters, and I am sure that the members of the delegation will take to their hearts the tragedy of refugees and, on the basis of the international law, make their contribution to restoring fairness and restoring the refugees' rights. I shall have a meeting with them tomorrow, and we shall discuss this issue.

[Oniani] Thank you.

Shevardnadze Receives CSCE Representative

LD2507183294 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has met with Ambassador Hans Jorg Eiff, head of the CSCE permanent representation in Georgia. The guest handed Shevardnadze the text of the latest UN Security Council resolution pertaining to the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict. The head of state pointed out the positive role of the UN and the CSCE in the issue of establishing peace in the Abkhazian region.

Having met leaders of the sides involved in the Abkhazian and Ossetian conflicts, Hans Jorg Eiff was convinced that there are no insurmountable differences in their positions. Hence, negotiations have good prospects.

Russia's role in a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict as well as technical problems pertaining to speeding up the return of refugees to their homes were also considered.

Patsatsia Asks Refugees To Halt Disorganized Return

LD2507182894 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Refugees from Abkhazia continue their peaceful sit-in at the Inguri bridge. The displaced people demand that their return to their homes in Abkhazia be expedited.

[Unidentified correspondent] Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia met refugees from Abkhazia in the village of Rukhi. [passage omitted].

[Begin recording] [Patsatsia] I beg you to refrain from a spontaneous return. It should by no means be allowed to happen. We have waited so long, we have endured so much, and I ask you to wait until a delegation arrives. I do hope that the issue will have a positive solution. There is no other way out. We will see a real Russian policy toward us and in connection with the return of refugees. The agreement is being implemented unilaterally at the moment. Our side implements the agreement

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while their side does not. That is why we are voicing the issue in this way and you will be witnessing this on 27 July. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified speaker] I would like to say one thing. The issue of returning is not expected to be resolved on 27 July. They will demonstrate whether the other Abkhazian side is going to implement the decision and whether the Russian side is going to intervene in the issue in case the decision is not implemented. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Correspondent] The participants in the action were visited by Major General Aleksey Potapov, the commander of the southern zone of the Russian peacekeeping forces.

Georgian-Abkhazian Sides Hold Russian-Brokered Meeting

LD2507191694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Video report by correspondent Arkadiy Melkonyan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] For the first time since the introduction of the united CIS peacekeeping forces into the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, Commander Vasiliy Yakushev has managed to organize a meeting between the field commanders of the sides involved in the conflict directly on the territory controlled by a Kodori grouping.

[Melkonyan] The expedition led by General Yakushev, with representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz Defense Ministries and the United Nations taking part, has been the only possible way to set up personal contact with the leadership of the Kodori grouping that consists of Georgian soldiers and essentially Svanetiya local residents. Admittedly, the outcome of this expedition could not be foreseen. From the very first minute of the meeting, it became clear that neither the leadership of this grouping nor Svanetiya residents were informed about the quadripartite agreement on a cease-fire and the separation of the opposing sides adopted in May in Moscow. Nor were they aware of the talks being held on refugees or the mission of the CIS peacekeeping forces at the confrontation line. Having received copies of the documents and read their contents, Colonel (Ananidze), the commander of the Kodori grouping, voiced his support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the region and said that he will withdraw Georgian soldiers from Abkhaz territory. The sides have agreed to hold another meeting.

Russian Duma Delegation To Visit 26 Jul

NC2607073094 Yerevan SNARK in English 0904 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 25 July (SNARK)—Tomorrow, 26 July, the delegation of Russia's Duma comes to Tbilisi. The aim of the visit is to get acquainted with the situation existing in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and to inspect the Russia's peace keeping troops.

Paper Publishes Edict on Combating Crime

AU2607105994 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 14 Jul 94 p 1

["Edict of the Georgian Head of State on Urgent Measures To Combat Crime"]

[Text] As a result of a number of operative and organizational measures carried out by the republic's law enforcement bodies, there are signs of stabilization in the situation. There has been a reduction in the number of serious crimes, a considerable drop in the number of premeditated murders, robberies, and other crimes against the person, and order is being established on the republic's highways.

In spite of this, the criminal situation in the Republic still remains serious. Corruption, terrorist acts, banditry, other manifestations of organized crime, and drug addiction and the drugs business are creating a serious danger for the state and society and citizens' rights and freedoms and are delaying an improvement of the economy and peaceful operations that are in progress. The syndrome of impunity has not been completely eradicated. The legal base for combating crime takes little account of the new forms and scale of crime.

With the aim of increasing the role of the state as a guarantor of security, improving legislation and the mechanisms for its implementation, strengthening the law enforcement bodies, and implementing urgent measures to combat crime throughout the Republic:

1. Georgian Parliament commissions, the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia Security Service (I. Giorgadze) together with the Republic of Georgia Supreme Court (M. Ugrekhelidze) are to elaborate in the third quarter of this year and present to Parliament for examination the following draft laws: "on the struggle against organized crime," "on the struggle against corruption and economic crimes," "on the struggle against terrorism," "on responsibility for creating illegal armed formations and participation in them," "on legal protection for law enforcement services and employees of the courts," "on the social rehabilitation of persons who have returned from prison and control over them," "on the legal profession," and "on state service."

2. To prohibit the carrying out of any searches by control and law enforcement bodies without the appropriate order from the department head and an elaborated program; as a rule, a corresponding document or certificate should be drawn up on the results of each search.

The law enforcement bodies are to conduct searches only if information exists that there have been violations of

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the law. Direct appeals, the results of an analysis of criminal, civil, and arbitration cases, statistical analysis, procurators' supervision and the practice of judicial procedure, or other information containing sufficient data on violations of the law are to be viewed as the basis for conducting searches.

The edict of the Georgian head of state on establishing order and coordination in activities related to carrying out checks and controls in the republic is to be elaborated and published within two weeks. The corresponding departments that have been entrusted with this function and also rayon and town heads are to submit the appropriate proposals.

3. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), the Republic of Georgia State Security Service (I. Giorgadze), and the Republic of Georgia's Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), after coordinating with local administrative bodies, are to draw up a list of towns and rayons that should be brought under special control in connection with the serious criminal situation on their territories. Local administrative bodies together with law enforcement bodies are to elaborate concrete measures aimed at achieving stability and control their implementation.

The personnel in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Service in these regions is to be extensively used in operational work.

The basic criterion for assessing the work carried out by the central and regional bodies of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Republic of Georgia's Procurator's Office, and the Republic of Georgia Security Service is considered to be the detection rate of crimes under their jurisdiction and the unmasking of criminals.

Taking into account the real situation, the heads of law enforcement and justice bodies are to set higher demands with regard to heads at the city and rayon levels and, when necessary, take disciplinary and legal action against them as provided for in law.

In order to increase the role of the police at primary levels in the struggle against crime, experimental projects concerning rayon police departments (municipal and branch police and so forth) are to be elaborated.

4. A special department is to be formed to combat terrorism within the Republic of Georgia State Security Service. The Republic of Georgia State Security Service (I. Giorgadze) is to submit the appropriate proposals within 10 days.

5. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili) and the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), are to check within two months the quality of investigative measures concerning persons lost without trace on the basis of materials from internal affairs bodies. They are to prepare proposals aimed at improving this work.

6. To create an interdepartmental commission for unsolved criminal cases composed of qualified specialists from the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office, the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service. The commission is to be headed by Procurator General J. Babilashvili. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office is to elaborate the rules of the commission within 20 days.

7. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili) together with the Republic of Georgia Chamber of Control (R. Shavishvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service (I. Giorgadze) are to speed up checks being carried out on violations in the country's monetary and credit system and the timely completion of an objective investigation of criminal proceedings instituted on the basis of these materials. They are to submit information on the work carried out by 1 September 1994. Along with the information, they are to submit proposals on preventing and eradicating crimes in this sphere.

8. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia Supreme Court (M. Ugrekhelidze) are to study comprehensively the practice of combating corruption and, on this basis, elaborate proposals of an organizational and legal nature aimed at preventing and eradicating crimes in this sphere.

9. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense (V. Nadibaidze), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service (I. Giorgadze) are to compile an inventory of firearms and ammunition recorded as belonging to each of them within one month.

They are to submit by 1 August 1994 precise information concerning the types and quantity of firearms, ammunition, and military equipment and transport confiscated from illegal armed formations and individuals and voluntarily surrendered by the population.

They are to ensure that a ballistic examination is carried out on departmental authorized firearms by 1 December 1994 in order to create a single information center in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

They are to submit within 10 days information on the results of implementing the edict adopted on the disbanding of illegal armed formations.

10. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense (V. Nadibaidze), and the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze) are to elaborate proposals on improving legislation on war crimes, including responsibility for crimes committed during a state of emergency, the illegal wearing of military uniform, and

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responsibility for fulfilling the functions of armed protection without the appropriate permission.

They are to elaborate a draft law "on the material responsibility of servicemen" and a statute "on courts of honor in the Armed Forces."

11. The Chief Military Procurator's Office (A. Shushanashvili) is to ensure a full and comprehensive investigation of the criminal case concerning the reasons for the military defeat in Abkhazia.

12. To ratify the specific program elaborated by the State Commission To Combat Drug Addiction (I. Menagharishvili) "on Comprehensive Measures Against the Misuse of Drugs and Their Illegal Circulation."

13. The Republic's Procurator's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Justice, together with the Supreme Court, are to analyze the crime situation among adolescents. They are to submit proposals on questions concerning the prevention of crime among adolescents.

14. The government commission set up to deal with privatization issues (T. Basilia) is to check that the privatization process corresponds to current legislation in Tbilisi, Rustavi, Kutaisi, and other industrial centers.

15. In order to strengthen the national currency and normalize monetary and credit relations, the Republic of Georgia National Bank (N. Javakhishvili) together with other corresponding banks are to ensure that legislation on banking activities is observed precisely and steadfastly; they are to pay particular attention to the financial situation of legal and physical entities who are receiving loans, their solvency, and loan guarantees when issuing monetary resources and credits. In accordance with the rules established in law, they are to determine correctly the size of a loan, that expenditure is purpose-oriented, the dates for paying off a loan, and the interest to be paid. They are to impose strict control on the use of loans for the purpose stated and their timely repayment.

16. The Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers (O. Patsatsia) is to adopt measures on legal mutual assistance and to ensure adherence to the convention of CIS member states on civil, family, and criminal cases;

It is to examine the question of the expediency of adopting the draft resolution drawn up by the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs on the registration and fingerprinting of the population in parallel with the issuing of new national passports and identification cards to citizens of Georgia;

It is to examine and adopt within 10 days a special program for improving the material and technical base of establishments implementing the orders of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs and providing them with communal services and for the social adaption of persons who have served prison sentences;

It is to seek additional resources in order to supply the Procurator's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Security Service, and courts with equipment and improve the material conditions of the employees of these bodies;

It is to ensure that a single procedure governing the quantitative regulation and licensing of exports and imports is to be steadfastly implemented on the territory of Georgia.

17. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs (A. Chikvaidze), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili) are to prepare proposals on the Republic of Georgia joining international conventions on questions concerning the struggle against crime.

18. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), the Television and Radio Corporation (A. Gogelia), together with the Union of Georgian Journalists (A. Sikharulidze), are to prepare proposals on the inadmissibility in the mass media of materials characterized by crude violence, cruelty, pornography, and drug addiction and the violation of human dignity and on introducing changes and additions to the Law on the Press and Mass Media.

19. The Republic of Georgia ministries of internal affairs and justice, the Republic of Georgia Supreme Court, the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office, and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service are to elaborate and, on the basis of cooperation with the mass media, implement a complex of measures aimed at informing the population in an objective and timely manner about the results of the struggle against crime and the progress of court cases.

20. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice (T. Ninidze), the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili), the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs (Sh. Kviraia), and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service (I. Giorgadze), together with interested departments and organizations, are to elaborate and submit for approval within two months a program for attracting young cadres into the law enforcement bodies and improving their qualifications.

21. The Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office (J. Babilashvili) and procurators subordinate to it are to coordinate the work of the law enforcement bodies in the struggle against crime prior to the adoption of the Constitution. They are to submit for approval by 1 August 1994 a statute on the procedure for coordinating the work of the law enforcement bodies.

22. In order to strengthen the struggle against organized crime, terrorism, the mafia, the illegal circulation of

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drugs, and other crimes that bear an international character and to intensify to the maximum degree of international cooperation in this matter, it is viewed as expedient to create a Georgian national group attached to the international association for criminal law.

The Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers is to ensure that this group receives the necessary organizational, financial, and technical aid.

23. Of the sums confiscated by the investigative and operational-investigative services in the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office, and the Republic of Georgia State Security Service 15 percent are to remain at the disposal of these departments in order to improve their technical base and the material situation of their employees.

24. The Provisional Committee for Emergency Situations Under the Georgian Head of State is to be abolished.

In order to coordinate the work of the defense, security, and law enforcement bodies, strengthen law and order in the state, and ensure political, economic, and social stability, a coordinating emergency commission under the head of state is to be created composed of the following:

- **Eduard Shevardnadze**—chairman of the commission, Georgian head of state;
- **Otar Patsatsia**—deputy chairman of the commission, Republic of Georgia prime minister;
- **Jaba Ioseliani**—deputy chairman of the commission, member of the Georgian Parliament;
- **Irakli Menagharishvili**—Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister, chairman of the Government Commission to Combat Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business;
- **Vardiko Nadibaidze**—Republic of Georgia minister of defense;
- **Jamlet Babilashvili**—Republic of Georgia procurator general;
- **Shota Kviraia**—Republic of Georgia minister of internal affairs;
- **Igor Giorgadze**—head of the Republic of Georgia State Security Service;
- **Tedo Ninidze**—Republic of Georgia minister of justice;
- **Aleksandr Kavsadze**—chairman of the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations;
- **Niko Lekishvili**—mayor of Tbilisi;
- **Revaz Shavishvili**—chairman of the Republic of Georgia Chamber of Control;

25. To submit for examination at a regular session of Parliament the question of introducing changes to the Republic of Georgia Law "on the Republic of Georgia National Security and Defense Council."

26. Information on the progress of the implementation of this edict is to be heard at republican conferences of employees of the law enforcement bodies to be held in October 1994 and January 1995.

[Signed] **E. Shevardnadze**

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Estonia

Government Accepts NATO 'Partnership' Plan

WS2607094694 Tallinn ETA in English 0624 GMT 26 Jul 94

[From 26 Jul EESTI SENUMID, HOMMIKULEHT, pp 1, 3; "News Bulletin" No. 142/94]

[Text] The Estonian Government has decided to accept the security agreement of the "Partnership for Peace" program by NATO and the NATO Cooperation Association. Although Estonia signed the frame agreement in February this year, the signing of an individual partnership program would probably take place later. Estonian Contact Officer by NATO Peeter Lins said that Estonia had finished the preparatory work. A NATO commission is to look over the documents and prepare the individual program. After that the program would be discussed in Estonia and the final signing would be in Brussels in the end of August.

Meri-Yeltin Summit 'Spontaneous' Clinton Initiative

WS2607080494 Tallinn BNS in English 1316 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Jul 25, BNS—The presidential summit between Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin, due on Tuesday, comes at the initiative of U.S. President Bill Clinton, said Aleksandr Udaltsev, the chief official responsible for relations with the Baltics at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Udaltsev told BNS today his opinion on the issue was that a summit should be convened only after Russia and Estonia have initialed an agreement on troop withdrawal. "The idea of an Estonian-Russian summit meeting was a spontaneous one; the respective proposal was made by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Maybe the presidential meeting will also give results," Udaltsev said. He said that Russia had to find a compromise to resolve the current impasse in relations with the Baltic neighbor, taking into account also her own interests. Udaltsev said he thinks the main stumbling block on the way toward an agreement—the issues of the troop withdrawal and of the retired Russian military living in Estonia—can be resolved only by the representatives of the two countries, without interference by any third party into the process. [passage omitted]

Government Plans No Concessions to Russia

LD2607064194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0619 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Moloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn July 26 TASS—"President Meri will go to Moscow with a briefcase packed by the Estonian Government," said Estonian Premier Mart Laar, speaking over Estonian Television on Monday. He "divulged the secret" of the presidential briefcase.

The premier said that the Moscow summit would concentrate, above all, on a withdrawal of foreign troops from Estonia by August 31.

In the premier's opinion, Estonia has no grounds to make concessions to Russia, since "Estonian legislation is extremely liberal", and all compromises which could be made by the republic, were made in the process of work on laws, including those acts dealing with Russian military pensioners.

Laar stressed that it is impossible to change the operating Estonian laws and that all decisions should be taken on their basis.

Laar claimed that Russia, above all, would profit by the withdrawal of troops from Estonia and that it should be interested in the pullout. "Naturally, Estonia and the entire world will also stand to gain by this, since the seat of a possible armed conflict will be wiped out in Estonia with the departure of the last Russian soldier," Laar noted.

Commenting on the forthcoming talks between the Russian and Estonian presidents, a high-ranking Russian diplomat said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Tuesday that he does not preclude "a new turn of events" in Russian-Estonian relations.

According to the diplomat who refused to be identified, the Russian Foreign Ministry hopes that Boris Yeltsin and Lennart Meri "can find, in principle, a solution for problems which piled up in bilateral relations".

The diplomat pointed, above all, to the problem of Russian military pensioners living in Estonia.

According to information available to ITAR-TASS, vice-chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry Raul Malk already arrived in Moscow. He had a "fruitless" meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin in Helsinki last week.

"The Estonian side was ready for such a meeting long ago," said on Tuesday Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik, commenting on today's meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Estonian counterpart Lennart Meri.

According to the minister, it is heartening that Russia also understood the need for such a meeting. Luik said that Estonia's aspirations are simple and clear: the foreign troops, the withdrawal of which Russia dragged its feet for so much time, should leave the republic by August 31.

"We go to this meeting with hope and are inclined to work seriously. But at the same time, we are forced to note with sadness that the decision by the Russian Defense Ministry to suspend the withdrawal of troops

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will negatively affect the atmosphere at the Estonian-Russian summit," the minister noted.

It will be remembered that over 300,000 people without citizenship, making up a third of the republic's population, live in Estonia now. Many of them are veterans of the Second World War and Russian Armed Forces.

Latvia

President Asks Krastins To Form New Government

LD2507134994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The plenary session of the Saeima is expected to be told of State President Guntis Ulmanis' statement that he has invited Andrejs Krastins [from the Latvian National Independence Movement group] to form a government. This announcement was made by President Guntis Ulmanis in his office an hour ago.

Andrejs Krastins, who is associate Saeima chairman, told a session of the presidium that he might not announce the composition of a new cabinet of ministers or reveal its program until 8 August.

Plight of Russian Veterans of Patrotic War Viewed

MM2507102194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Igor Golin: "No Privileges for War Veterans in Latvia. Russia Also Not in Position to Support Those Responsible for the Victory"]

[Text] The Riga Russian-language newspaper SMSEGODNYA published an article entitled "On The Brink"—concerning the 30,000 front veterans, including more than 5,500 Patriotic War invalids, living in Latvia without enjoying any rights. Before Latvia was declared an independent state all front veterans enjoyed various privileges—from free travel and free medicines to priority housing provision and social assistance in the home—and they received preferential pensions. With independence, privileges were abolished and the pensions became "minimum labor" pensions. The new authorities declared that Latvia had not participated in the war and the veterans of the Soviet Armed Forces were representatives of an occupying army and Russia should take care of them. Since then there has been no progress, no matter what avenues the leaders of the Council for the Protection of Veterans' Rights of Latvia have explored in order to rectify the situation.

As Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian state delegation at the talks with Latvia, explained, the question of pensioners who are living in Latvia but who are not Russian Federation Defense Ministry pensioners is not on the talks agenda, since, in accordance with all international norms, the payment of pensions to the country's inhabitants is carried out on the basis of a decision by the country's leadership. Latvian representatives, in turn, rightly point out that if, in accordance with their laws, increased pensions are not paid to Latvian citizens who participated in the war, why should they be paid to Russian-speaking "noncitizens"? But the Latvian Government has no objection to the payment of preferential pensions to inhabitants of Latvia by Russia. But that is an internal matter for Russia.

At the moment Russia is not even paying these pensions to those who took Russian citizenship although living outside Russia. Russian Social Security Ministry aide Tatyana Savitskaya explained that there were not even any plans to pay pensions to those living abroad. The Social Security Ministry has not presented legislators with initiatives along those lines and does not intend to do so. It is the same old reason—no money; moreover, as far as the Baltic is concerned, the countries of the region did not sign the agreement "On mutual recognition of privileges and guarantees for participants and invalids of the Great Patriotic War and participants of combat actions on the territories of other states, and the families of dead servicemen."

So the only hope is that they will adopt a law on privileges for war veterans and invalids in the Latvian Republic as well. At the moment war veterans are existing, not living.

Lithuania

Belarus Denies Rail Station Up for Negotiation

WS2607110794 Tallinn BNS in English 0909 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Minsk, Jul 26, BNS—The secretary of the Belarusian parliament's International Affairs Commission, Valentin Golubev, denied Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska's words that Belarus agrees to consider the disputed Adutiskis station a matter of negotiation. Januska based himself on a recent resolution of the Belarusian parliament, saying that an additional pair of tracks may be built near the station, which is claimed by both Lithuania and Belarus.

In an interview with BNS, Golubev said the station "was and will be Belarusian." He added, however, that Belarus may build additional tracks about 5 meters from the station to guarantee Belarusian train traffic until the process of border delimitation is completed. Golubev said he spoke with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's representatives, who agreed that an attempt should be made to resolve the Adutiskis problem by way of negotiations. But if no agreement is reached, "we will simply take what belongs to us," the Belarusian lawmaker said. Golubev also noted that "those Lithuanian citizens who hoisted a Lithuanian flag on the station building will soon understand that it must

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be taken off a Belarusian building and Belarusian territory." He said Belarus "will not allow to link the problem of using the Adutiskis station to the problem of the Belarus sanatorium in Druskininkai (Lithuanian health resort)." Golubev added: "Druskininkai is also a former Belarusian territory, which was given to Lithuania by the Soviet Government, and the sanatorium was built by Belarus."

The lawmaker said Belarus does not seek to get back any territories but "only wants to strengthen borders recorded at the United Nations and in the Helsinki agreement." Golubev expressed hope that the situation will be understood "correctly" in Lithuania and that there will be "no more talking about Belarus' aggressiveness."

Seimas Chairman Reacts to Statement

WS2607094794 Vilnius ELTA in English 1827 GMT 25 Jul 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 550]

[Text] Vilnius, July 25, ELTA—Statement, concerning Adutiskis railway station, made by Secretary of Committee for International Affairs of Belarusian Supreme Council Valentin Golubev was described by Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas as a statement made "by one and not the most important official." According to Jursenas, it was not the official position of Belarus.

Golubev said to the press that he had a talk with representatives of Belarusian president and they reached a unanimous decision to try to solve the problem by negotiations. "But if the negotiations became a failure, Belarus would take what belonged to it," said Golubev last week.

During the meeting with Jursenas in Minsk on July 21 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said that he and the new government would try to maintain good relations with their neighbors, including Lithuania. During the meeting Jursenas expressed his wish that the negotiations on border delimitation be finished as soon as possible. Jursenas also noted at the meeting that he hoped there would not be very difficult to find agreements while solving such problems as Adutiskis railway station and sanatorium in Druskininkai. Both states claim the objects.

Hottest Summer in 25 Years Causes Crop Failures

WS2607093994 Tallinn BNS in English 1806 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jul 25, BNS - A drought started in Lithuania July 20 and is likely to cover the country's entire territory this week, the Meteorology and Hydrology Center said. The center's head, Jurate Mikalajuniene, said Forestry and Agriculture Ministries have received drought warnings because no rain and temperatures above 30 C [degrees Celsius] are forecasted for this week.

This year's summer in Lithuania, with temperatures rising up to 35 C for 5-6 days in a row, appears to be the hottest over the last 25 years. Extreme heat and dryness have already affected crops, which are yellowing and drying up. The hot summer withered up 50 percent of pastures in some places. The threat of forest fires has reached its peak in eight administrative regions.

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